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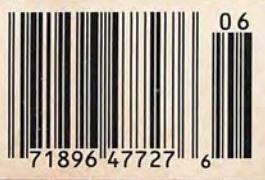
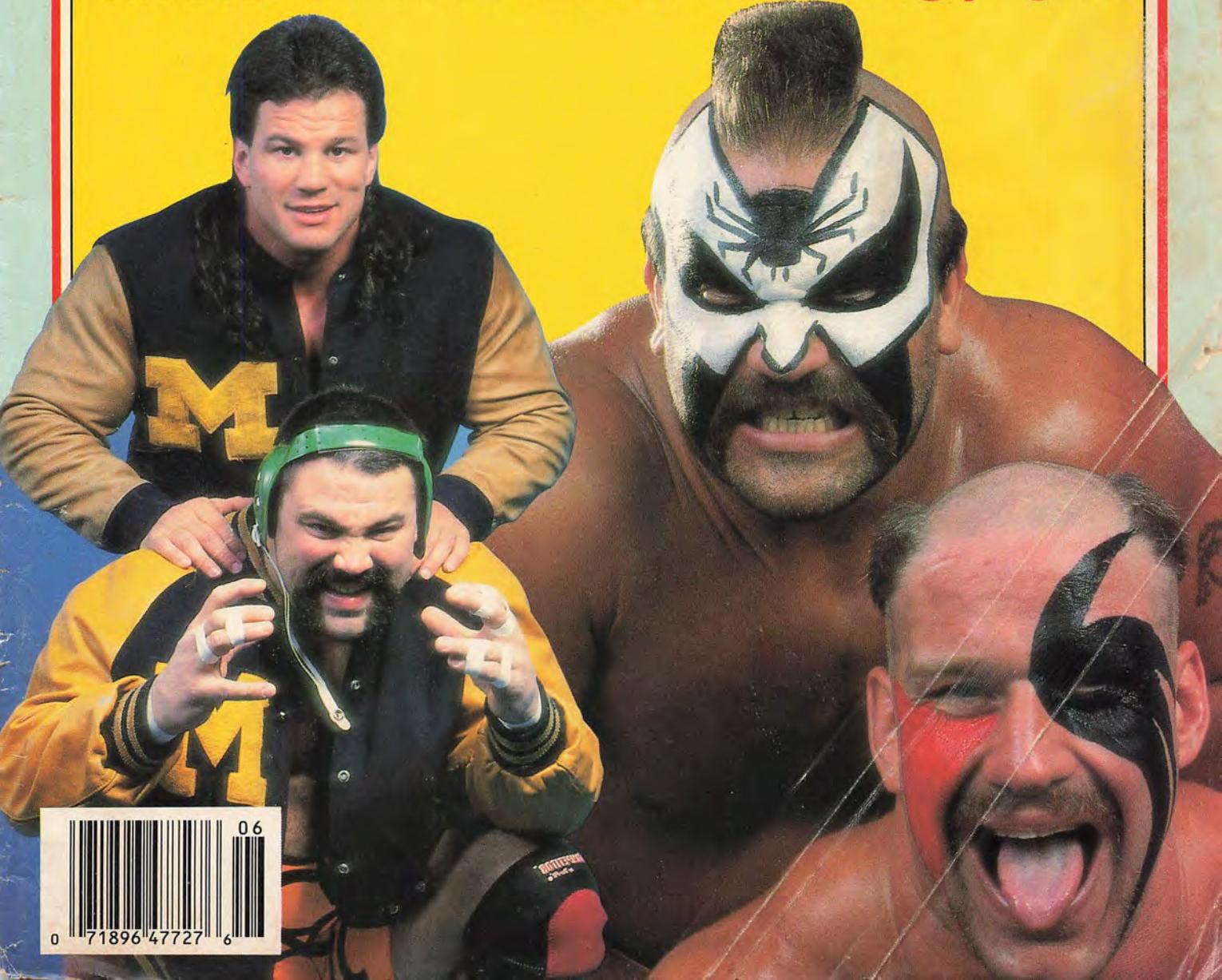
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INSIDE

# Inside Wrestling

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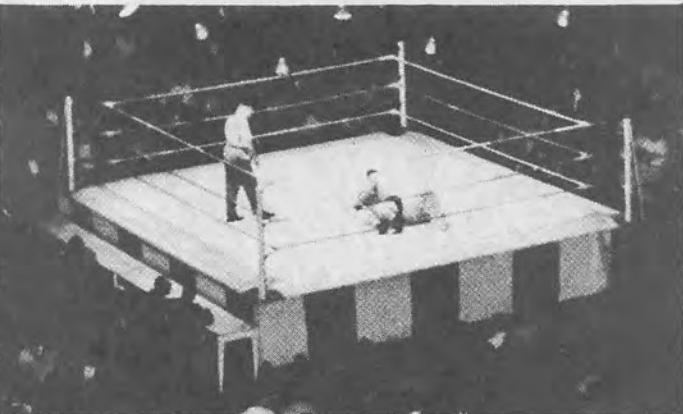
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# SINCERELY YOURS

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## LUCKY SEVEN

I have two words for all you idiot reporters who said "Nature Boy" Ric Flair would not regain the NWA World title for a seventh time: Ha! Ha!

"Slick" Ric is styling and profiling once again, and he is well on his way to ruling the NWA throughout the '90s just as he did in the '80s. So all the other wrestlers in the federation better get used to being no better than number two, because, like Ric says: He's going to become the only wrestler ever to retire the NWA World title.

A few words for Sting: You had your day. You were the champion for a few months, but you had everything

in your favor on the day you won the title, and you had to know that sooner or later "the man" would be the man again. Just stand back and enjoy the fact that you were champion once. Don't go after the title again. If you do, Ric will only embarrass you.

MARTHA MABE  
Stuart, VA

## GOOD GOING, JACK

In all the years I have watched the WWF, I have never liked any of WWF President Jack Tunney's decisions. Until now.

In a last chance of hope for him to remain president, he has finally put together one of the greatest matches in



Ric Flair conclusively proved his greatness—and proved a lot of reporters wrong—when he won the NWA World title from Sting, reader Martha Mabe says.

WWF history: Hulk Hogan vs. Sgt. Slaughter. I must praise Tunney for doing something right for a change.

ERIC BERMUDEZ  
Tampa, FL

## WON'T BE PIPER

In response to your story "Roddy Piper's I-C Title Quest: Are The Fans Pinning Their Hopes On The Wrong Man?" (April 1991), my own answer to that question is: Yes!



Roddy Piper may be serious in his quest to win the I-C belt from Curt Hennig, but reader Dale Ford doubts Piper will succeed.

It's clear to me that Piper is more comfortable as an announcer than as a wrestler. You can tell he is having a lot of fun at the microphone. On the other hand, how much "fun" does he have in the ring? More pain and agony than fun, I'll bet.

My pick for the best man to take the I-C belt from Curt Hennig is the man who had it last, "Texas Tornado" Kerry Von Erich. Kerry is the only one I can see taking Curt in the ring. Hennig is still stunned by how Kerry beat him so quickly at SummerSlam last year. So, look for Kerry to win again very soon.

DALE FORD  
Lexington, KY

### OLD ST. LOOEY

As a youngster growing up in St. Louis, I remember many nights spent watching wrestling at the Kiel Auditorium. That's why it was such a kick to read "Matt Brock's Plain Speaking" (April 1991) item on the Kiel, which is as much a part of wrestling lore as the NWA itself.

That's also why it was so disappointing to see Ric Flair disguised as The Black Scorpion at Starrcade '90 at the Kiel. This kind of gimmickry makes a mockery of all the great stars who wrestled there. The sport doesn't need it.

FRANK DAMM  
St. Louis

### NOT THE BEST YET

The Steiners could almost be considered the best tag team ever, but as you say in your article, "The Steiners: They'd Be The Greatest Tag Team, But . . ." (April 1991), they have quite a way to go. To reach that level of legend, I say you have to do it for at least seven years. Rick and Scott Steiner have only been teaming full-time for the last two years or so. That's simply not long enough, as far as I'm concerned.

Don't get me wrong; I'm a big fan of the Steiners. I mean, is there a greater maneuver than Scott's "Frankensteiner"? I haven't seen it yet. And Rick's "Steinerline" clothesline is nothing to laugh at, either. Rick and Scott are undoubtedly two of the finest wrestlers anywhere.

But they're not legends yet.

GERRY BLACKMAN  
St. Paul, MN

### MADUSA! MADUSA!

I was relieved to read in "On Assignment" (April 1991) that Madusa Miceli had not retired. She is an outstanding competitor. Had she decided to hang it up, it would have been a serious loss for women's wrestling.

Madusa's decision to add kick-boxing skills to her already formidable arsenal makes her an even greater threat to any women's title out there. In fact, if she doesn't win a major championship, it will most likely be because the champion is afraid to meet her in the ring.

I can assure you that all her months in Japan haven't lost Madusa any of the fans she has here in the U.S.

MARIA REED  
Pittsfield, MA



Since feuding with Wendi Richter, Madusa Miceli has added kick-boxing maneuvers to her repertoire, which, in reader Maria Reed's opinion, makes Madusa better than ever.

### BRING BACK THE MIDNIGHTS!

Reading your "One On One" with Steve Keirn and Bobby Eaton (April 1991), I thought how great it would be to see Eaton and Stan Lane get back together as The Midnight Express again. They were the best.

It's already clear that Lane and Keirn aren't getting along too smoothly in The Fabulous Ones. It started off okay, but it was easy to see Keirn didn't totally agree with the shenanigans of Jim Cornette. Maybe if the Fabs had done it on their own it would have been fine, but Cornette messed things up.

As for Eaton, he is doing much better than expected in singles competition.

(Continued on page 52)

# SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Life in the year 1990 was brutal for the man who calls himself El Gigante. It was a year of loneliness, embarrassment, physical pain, and mental torment. He was separated from his country and family. He had committed himself to a strange, new profession and quickly learned that not only was his opponent intent on tearing him down, but so were the thousands of critics in the stands and watching on TV.

He won, but he knew—and everybody else knew—that he was being carefully matched against opponents a man 7'7" and 435 pounds couldn't lose to. Even in victory, he didn't look good. The fans made fun of him, and fellow wrestlers took shots at him behind his back.

"I looked bad," he told me, "but I felt even worse."

The transition from basketball star to wrestling star was not as easy as NWA executives had told him it would be. And it wasn't just the wrestling. It was being in a new country and having trouble being understood. It was being away from friends and family.

"I thought about quitting," he said. "I called home and they said whatever I did was okay, but they also reminded me that a Gonzales never quit anything."

So Jorge Gonzales decided to give being El Gigante another crack. He got a big boost when the fans selected him as runner-up for Rookie of the Year honors. Then he began to train under David Sierra, who inspired, counseled, and taught. Unexpectedly, he beat a top-level wrestler in Bobby Eaton, who actually went out of his way to praise the big man.

Now El Gigante is a top challenger to Ric Flair. Most people don't give him a chance to win, and they're probably right. But El Gigante has overcome odds that other wrestlers will never face. And he should never be laughed at—or laughed off—again.

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# NAMES MAKI

AFTER DOMINATING THE NWA tag team scene for nearly a year, **Doom** has split up. The powerful combination of **Butch Reed** and **Ron Simmons** had a violent parting of the ways following their loss of the NWA World tag team title to **The Freebirds** at Wrestle War '91 on February 24 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Reed, Simmons, and their manager, **Teddy Long**, had openly shown their frustration with each other during the past several months, but had managed to remain a functioning team. The loss of the title, however, has prompted Long and Reed to abandon Simmons and vow to drive him from the NWA.



REED VS. SIMMONS

When the match began, it looked as if it would be anything but a loss for the champions. Simmons and Reed tagged in and out often, and dominated **Jim Garvin** and **Michael Hayes** with power maneuvers. As all four men battled in the ring late in the match, Simmons rocked Garvin with a power-slam. When referee **Randy Anderson** was distracted by The Freebirds' new

road manager, **Big Daddy Dink**, Simmons grabbed Hayes' arms and held them behind his back.

Long threw a pair of brass knuckles into the ring, and Reed reared back to punch Hayes with them—but Hayes moved out of the way, and the blow



BIG DADDY DINK

struck Simmons squarely in the jaw. Dink grabbed the dazed Garvin and pushed him on top of Simmons for the winning pinfall.

After the match, Long began arguing with Simmons in the ring. Tired of Long's constant insults, Simmons pushed his manager to the mat, but then was attacked by Reed from behind. Reed and Long then worked over Simmons and left him lying in the ring.

"Don't need no losers in my stable," said Long after the match. "Simmons is the reason we lost our belts. Man, all he had to do was hold Hayes, and we'd be home free. But the big idiot couldn't even do that right. Well, he's history now, and our main goal is to bust Simmons up real, real bad. I always thought Butch was the better wrestler, anyway."

Simmons was angered that Long felt

it was necessary to use a foreign object against a team the caliber of The Freebirds.

"A man as powerful as I am doesn't need to use anything but his own God-given abilities to beat *anybody*," said Simmons a few days after the split-up.



TEDDY LONG

"I was pretty hot at first, but now I realize this is all for the best. I was wrong to stick with a man like Long for so long. Now I know I'm better off on my own. That doesn't mean I can't put a few knots in the head of Butch to teach him the error of his ways, though."

A split-up of a different kind may be coming in the WWF. Rumors have been flying that **Sensational Sherri**, **Randy Savage's** manager and valet since April 1989, may be on the verge of bolting the camp of the "Macho King" and joining forces with **Ted DiBiase**.

"There's only one reason why Sherri would do this—money," said a WWF source close to the situation. "Reportedly, DiBiase has offered Sherri a six-figure contract just to watch his back during his matches. Sherri has been loyal to Savage, but there's no way she

# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

can pass up this kind of an offer. DiBiase misses having a valet since **Virgil** turned against him, and Sherri is the best choice he could make."

Have you seen the new tag team of **The U.S. Males**, **Curtis Thompson** and **Chris Walker**, in the USWA? This duo has the kind of power that rivals any other team in the sport—including **The Legion Of Doom**. They're fast becoming top contenders



EDDIE GILBERT

... Also in the USWA, **Eddie Gilbert** is hearing cheers for the first time in years! "Hot Stuff" is tired of hearing **Eric Embry** putting down the people of Tennessee, so Gilbert is now teaming with former enemy **Jerry Lawler**—just months after Gilbert tried to run down "The King" with a car—to battle Embry and his partner, **Tom Prichard**. Miracles can happen ... **Tony Atlas** has returned to the IWCCW.

**Alexandra York** continues to add wrestlers to her **York Foundation**. The cagey computer expert has now hired **Curtis Hughes**, formerly known as **Big Cat**, as her "business asso-



TERRY TAYLOR

ciate." Hughes will serve as a protector for both York and **Terry Taylor**, who now insists on being billed as **Terrance Taylor**.

"Mr. Hughes is one of the most impressive young athletes in the NWA," said York upon the making the signing. "With him at ringside looking out for Mr. Taylor's well-being, there's no way Terrance will ever lose again. From this point, winning the World title is academic." We'll see about that!

**"Wild Thing" Steve Ray** and **Sunny Beach** have formed an impressive new tag team called **Wet & Wild** in the UWF. They're trying to receive matches against **The Power Twins** to determine the federation's top tag team ... Fans shouldn't make fun of **Bill Mulkey** any longer. He's become the Central Wrestling Federa-



CHRIS CHAVIS

tion champion after a long career of losing preliminary bouts on NWA television shows.

**Brad Rheingans** is training **Frank Anderson**, the Swedish Olympic wrestling champion, for his pro debut. Anderson is slated to compete in his first match in Japan later this year . . .

**Chris Chavis**, who recently made his WWF debut, remains a top contender for **Vince Torelli's** South Atlantic title . . .

**Bobby Heenan** is teaming **Barbarian** and **Haku** in the WWF . . . This just in: **Ricky Santana** and **Brad Anderson** have been stripped of the PNW tag team title. Santana has also been barred from the PNW for circumventing his previous suspension by masquerading as **The Hood**.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

I DON'T OFTEN get the chance to sound off on a variety of topics all at once. This month, however, I'm giving myself that luxury.

This is being written a few weeks before **WrestleMania VII**, but I'm operating on the assumption that **Hulk Hogan** is going to obliterate **Sgt. Slaughter** the same way the U.S. VII Corps obliterated **Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard**, and I expect the defeat to be every bit as decisive and humiliating. With that in mind, let me add that I'm certain that Hogan's third title reign will be his briefest: He has the drive and the heart to battle Slaughter, but once March 24

has slipped into the pages of wrestling history, I think Hogan is going to become at least as vulnerable as he was at **WrestleMania VI**. Are you listening, **Ultimate Warrior**?

I still think that **Sid Vicious'** days as a member of **The Four Horsemen** are numbered, but I said that three months ago, too. Frankly, I expected he would have bolted from the group by now. Either the conventional wisdom on Vicious is all wrong, or Sid is craftier than

anyone gives him credit for and he's waiting for precisely the right moment to strike.

Perhaps somebody ought to contact **Dr. Sidney M. Basil** to do a psychological profile on **Steve Keirn**. I'm sure that this magnificent scientific grappler isn't at all comfortable with the sneaky shenanigans repeatedly pulled by his current **Fabulous Ones** partner, **Steve Keirn**, and their manager, **Jim Cornette**.

Speaking of Cornette, I would love to see him reunite **The Midnight Express** once again in the NWA. But the way **Bobby Eaton** is wrestling lately, succeeding so well as a solo grappler, I don't think Cornette would have much of a chance of convincing his former charge of reforming that duo.

I caught **Randy Savage** and **Jimmy Hart** on one of those home shopping channels recently. They were hawking **Ultimate Warrior** and **Hulk Hogan** satin jackets at \$44.95 a pop (or \$89.90 for both—what a bargain!). Savage was pretty gracious in taking phone calls from viewers, and Hart was his typically obnoxious self, but the most amazing thing to me was how over 1,000 of these jackets were sold in about five minutes!

I'm definitely in the wrong line of work.

I've done a lot of thinking about **Alexandra York** and her computer methods for winning matches, and I've spoken extensively with several former college roommates who are now computer programmers and consultants, and I've come to this conclusion: York's laptop is nothing more than a psychological ploy. If one of **Terry Taylor's** opponents thinks he's at a disadvantage going into a match, then he's already beaten before the bell rings.



**Steve Keirn**

## ON THE ROAD

with  
**CRAIG PETERS**

Mental preparation is as important as physical preparation in this sport, and York has found a way of deflating opponents mentally, making them that much more susceptible to being beaten.

Think about it: If it *really* worked, she could take any wrestler into her stable and give him the secret of success.

Instead, she sticks with solid scientific grapplers like Taylor and **Mike Rotundo**, men who have the skills to be highly successful in the first place.

As to what she's doing on that computer during matches, my guess is that she's playing Tetris.

I'm sorry to see **Doom** break up. The NWA is packed with good teams, but **Butch Reed** and **Ron Simmons** had a certain quiet sense of confident domination that made them fascinating to watch.

If I see one more **Hulk Hogan-Earthquake** match, I'm gonna blow big, greasy chunks.

Sometimes I feel like I'm caught in a time warp when I watch the NWA. **Dusty Rhodes** is back (I give July 1 as the over-under date on him making a ring comeback; I'll take the under, thank you), **Nikita Koloff** is back, **Ric Flair** is champion. Is this 1986, or what?



**Mondo Kleen**

**Mondo Kleen** looks so awesome just standing there, it's amazing to me that someone in the WWF or NWA hasn't raided him from the IWCCW roster yet.

Can't say the same for **Curly Moe**, though.

There seems to be a **Terri Power** bandwagon building up steam, but I'm going to avoid grabbing my seat until I see her take on **Madusa Miceli**.

It's really quite sad to see what has happened to the AWA over the past couple of years. The sport desperately needs a third major promotion. Right now, there's so much distance between the WWF and NWA and everybody else that it's simply not good for competition—and competition is good for everybody. □

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The NWA's greatest wrestlers converge in Washington D.C., for a Congress of Capital Combat! Sting vs. Robocop make a special appearance to watch six-time champ Ric Flair & Lex Luger in a steel cage for the Championship. Also: The Steiners vs. Doom; Fly'n Brian & Z-Man vs. Midnight Express, Rock 'n Roll's etc.	A brutal night of devilish destruction! Ric Flair wants to permanently settle the score against Terry Funk. Together with Flair's powerhouse partner, Sting, the two great heavyweight pros treat Funk & The Great Muta to some monstrous portions of punishment! Also: Lex Luger, Thr Road Warriors, The Samoan Swat Team, The Skyscrapers, The Freebirds and many more!	In a terrorizing bout, Sting defends his title against Sid Vicious. Ric Flair teams up with Arn Anderson to attempt to dethrone Doom for the World Tag Team title. Lex Luger & Stan Hansen pound each other for the U.S. Championship title. In a destructive match for the U.S. Tag Team title: Steiner Brothers vs. Nasty Boys!	Sting vs. The Black Scorpion! Who will prove victorious in the first ever Tag Team Championship of the Universe, featuring Tag Teams from around the globe going to a face to face in a tournament of universal impact! Can Lex Luger hold on to the U.S. heavyweight belt when he battles Stan Hansen? Also: Doom vs. Ric Flair & Arn Anderson.
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<b>#8 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 1</b> new!!!	<b>#9 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 2</b> new!!!	<b>#10 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 3</b> new!!!	<b>#11 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 4</b> new!!!
Pro wrestling the way it was! Buddy "Nature boy" Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor in the 1961 classic bout. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez vs. Skull Murphy & Karl Von Hess. June Byers vs. Betty Hawkins. Dick the Bruiser vs. Pepper Gomez & more!	Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James. Antonino Rocca vs. Johnny Valentine. Six-man Tag Team Match: The Fabulous Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricki Starr. Killer Kowalski vs. Edouard Carpentier & more!	Buddy Rogers, Handsome Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice vs. Bobo Brazil, "Calypso Kid" Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas, Totos Brothers vs. Bob Nador & Chet Wallick, Ed Carpenter vs. Skull Murphy, Yukon Eric vs. Fritz Von Erich, Bulldog Brower vs. Bearcat Wright & more!	The Fabulous Kangaroos vs. Moose Cholak & Mighty Atlas, Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt, Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys, Bobo Brazil vs. Ski Hi Lee.
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# 'TOP SECRET'

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David  
Rosenbaum

IT'S HAPPENED MANY times before, and, because history repeats itself in wrestling more than in any other sport (or in any other part of life), it will surely happen again.

The problem, of course, is that most federation officials are weak and only a few are willing to go to the great lengths it takes to get a job done.

To make a suspension stick.

To make the loser in a loser-leaves-town match leave town.

To keep the numerous villains in this sport from perpetrating their evil ways, from getting around the rules and destroying the very core of our sport.

Some federation officials go about law enforcement the wrong way, by getting involved, by acting like sheriffs did in the Old West with showdowns on Main Street at high noon.

That's not the right way, either.

The right way is by enforcing the rules, by making them stick, by making sure the punishment fits the crime, by using punishment to keep the crimes from ever getting committed in the first place. Wrestlers won't do something bad if the risk is too great. After all, if they're banned from wrestling because of some heinous crime in the ring, their very method of making a living is taken away from them.

The point of all this is what's been happening in Portland, Oregon, home of the Pacific Northwest Wrestling federation.

Recently, Ricky Santana lost a loser-leaves-town match. But Santana didn't leave. He, instead, donned a mask and paraded around as The Hood.

Very few people were fooled. It  
(Continued on page 56)

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## H O T L I N E

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# INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

**L**OCK THE DOORS, bolt the windows, and turn out the lights. Hide under the daybed and pull the covers over your face. Moms and dads, keep your children indoors. And, for God's sake, whatever you do, don't watch any NWA wrestling!

Dusty Rhodes is back in town. His Royal Splotchness made his first appearance on-screen as color commentator at the January 31 Clash of the Champions card. To say that he was horrendous as a commentator wouldn't begin to describe the depths of my lack of admiration for his ability to make my ears cringe with every drawled syllable.

I can't say that I received any pleasure out of seeing Dusty's shoulders pinioned to the mat in record time by Virgil during the "American Nightmare's" final weeks in the WWF (even Dusty didn't deserve such humiliation), and his blubberfests against Buddy Rose were the truest testament as to how low the WWF will go in an attempt to disgust their family-oriented audience. But I must admit that once Dusty received his repeated drubbings at the hands of Ted DiBiase's former manservant, I'd hoped he would fade into the veritable woodwork



Dusty Rhodes' return to the NWA as a color commentator is bad news to Eddie Ellner, who just wishes the "American Dream" would retire from wrestling altogether.

forever.

No such luck.

Yes, friends, Dusty is back in the NWA, and he's brought his oafish offspring, Dustin (Separated At Birth From Big Moose Of Archie Comics) Rhodes, in tow.

These are dark days in the NWA.

I can hear the insipid and illiter-

ate scratchings of your crayons right now, readers. "But Eddie," you protest, "Dusty is only in the NWA to serve as a commentator; he's retired from the ring. As for Dustin, he's a good kid, a solid wrestler, and a future champion—a chip off the old block."

Which is what scares me. The  
*(Continued on page 58)*

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# A ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

FOR MANY WOMEN, part of the thrill of watching wrestling is seeing well-built men in skimpy outfits sweating up a storm and beating each other's brains out. There's certainly something enticing about full-contact athletic competition.

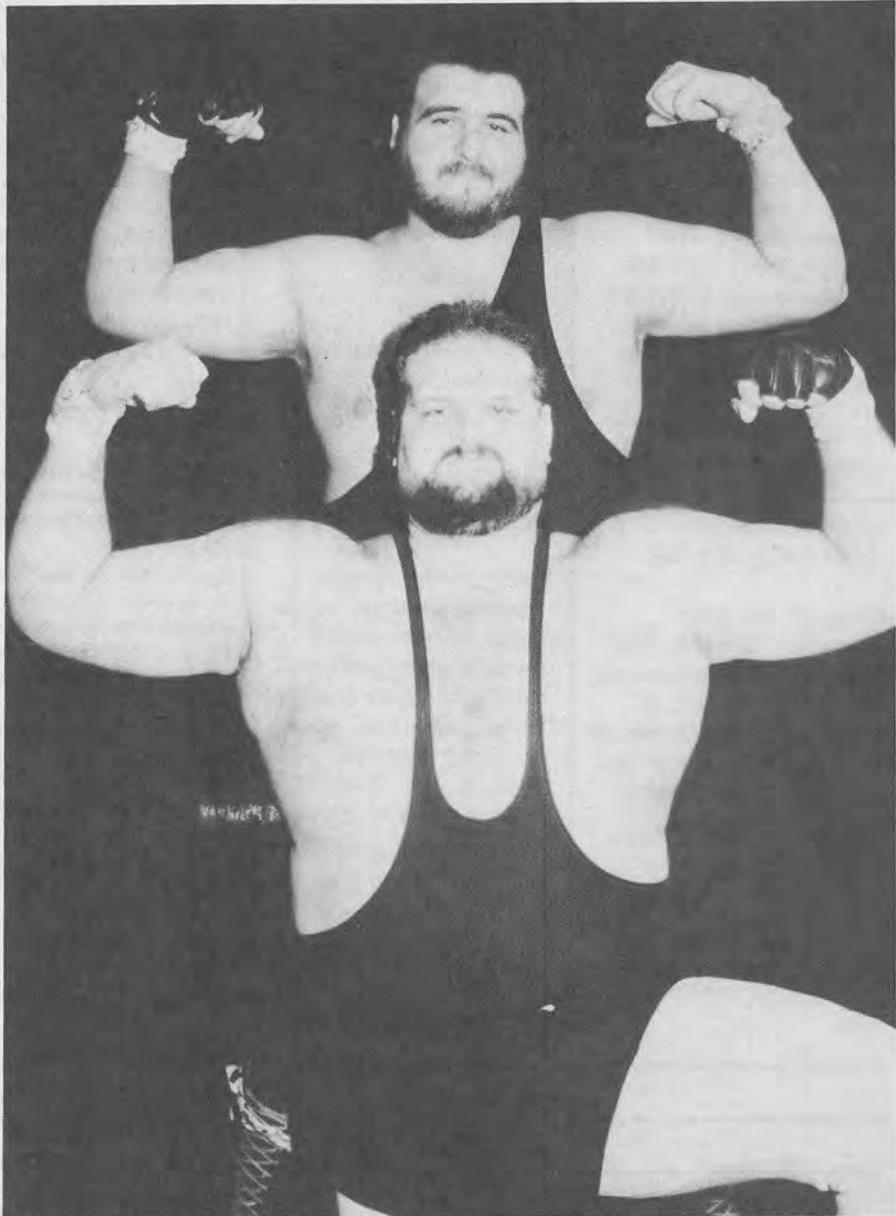
I'm not exactly sure I agree with the women who subscribe to this theory, but let's face it, men, especially those of you who watch beach volleyball on ESPN, don't you watch women's sports for the same reason?

Well, I'm not going to say I've never ogled Rick Martel's body, or gone ga-ga over Jeff Jarrett. But to me, the best part of wrestling is the excitement of a great championship match, and I don't care if the two ugliest creatures in the world are going at it (Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior aren't exactly beauties).

Still, wrestling is a sport and these men are athletes and they're supposed to be in top physical condition. The top wrestlers, for the most part, are, and it's great to watch well-conditioned people (men or women) going at it.

That's why my recent trip to Marietta, Georgia, was such a revolting experience. Sure, some pretty out-of-shape people have made it in this sport (Haystacks Calhoun, Gorilla Monsoon, King Kong Bundy), but never has there been anything like The Pretty Young Things.

And don't you dare confuse these guys with the Pretty Young



The Pretty Young Things, James (top) and Frederick, may not be appropriately named, but they're proud of their physiques, saying they have "the bodies of the '90s."

Things of the mid-'80s, Koko B. Ware and Norvell Austin.

James and Frederick (they won't say their last names, and I don't blame them; in this case, at least *some* anonymity is necessary), The Pretty Young Things,

tip in at a combined weight of 655 pounds, and there's not a bit of muscle on their bodies.

Of course, 655 pounds isn't really so much. The Legion of Doom weighs in at only 88

(Continued on page 60)

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

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Actual questions

In which sport did Ken Patera win an Olympic medal?

- 1) Weightlifting      3) Gymnastics
- 2) Wrestling          4) Boxing

Who was Hulk Hogan's first WWF manager?

- 1) Fred Blassie      3) Jimmy Hart
- 2) Arnold Skaaland    4) Elizabeth

Which man was never a member of Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom?

- 1) Jake Roberts      3) King Kong Bundy
- 2) Hawk                4) Buzz Sawyer

For which NFL team did Brian Pillman compete?

- 1) Kansas City Chiefs    3) Cincinnati Bengals
- 2) Los Angeles Rams     4) Atlanta Falcons

Gorilla Monsoon was originally billed as being from:

- 1) Manchuria      3) New Jersey
- 2) Croatia          4) Montreal

How did you do?

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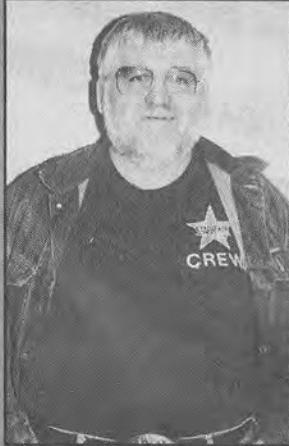


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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## KLONDIKE BILL

Burly brawler Bill weighed more than 400 pounds during his prime, and was one of the wildest rulebreakers ever. Today, the rugged veteran puts his strength to good use as ring supervisor for the NWA. Klondike travels from town to

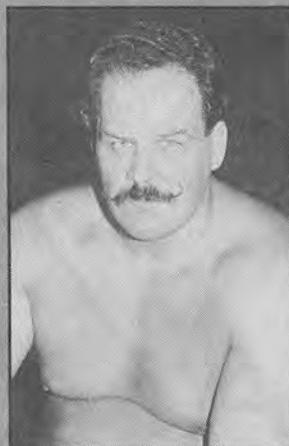
town, overseeing arena conditions and setting up the ring with former wrestler Gordon Nelson and other members of his crew. "I'm happy to still be a part of the sport," says Bill. "It's the only life for me."



## BOBBY DUNCUM

This former St. Louis Cardinals linebacker went on to compete in nearly every federation in the sport during the '70s and '80s. The Duncum name now lives on in burly Bob Duncum Jr., whom his father is training.

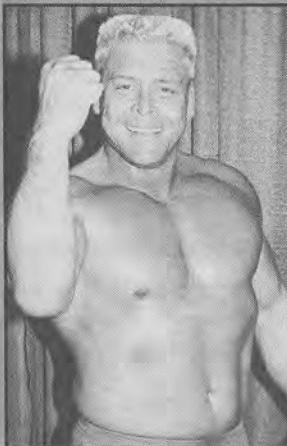
"He's already torn up the WWA in Texas," said Duncum Sr. proudly. "He's also with San Antonio of the new World League of American Football. I was the greatest on the gridiron and in the ring, and Bobby Jr.'s gonna be just as good."



## RON BASS

The "Outlaw" engaged in a bloody feud with Brutus Beefcake in the WWF in 1988, but left the federation after his war with "The Barber" was over. Currently, the huge Texan competes in independent cards throughout the

South, but is eyeing a return to a major federation. "I may challenge Sgt. Slaughter soon," Bass claimed. "I may even challenge Ric Flair. Everybody better stay on their toes, 'cause I'm out for titles again!"



## RON GARVIN

Rugged "Hands Of Stone" made wrestling history when he defeated Ric Flair for the NWA World title in 1987. After a year in the WWF, Garvin now claims he'd love to return to the NWA and defeat the "Nature Boy" again. "I did it

once and I can do it again," says Garvin confidently. Currently, the 26-year veteran, who has also held the AWA TV and WWC Universal titles, is competing on independent cards all over the country.

# INSIDE WRESTLING

179

## CAPSULE PROFILE

"**M**ILLION-DOLLAR MAN" Ted DiBiase may be obnoxious and arrogant, but he's been one of the sport's most formidable competitors for years ("Obnoxious and arrogant works!") ... The son of two former professional wrestlers "Iron" Mike DiBiase, who died in 1969 due to injuries suffered during a match, and Helen Hild ... Attended West Texas State University on a football scholarship ... Became a full-time pro wrestler in 1975 ("Didn't have to share the glory") ... Defeated Dick Slater for the Missouri title on February 12, 1978, but lost it to Dick Murdoch only 14 days later ... Went to the WWF later that year and held the now-defunct North American championship from 1978 to 1979 ... Returned to the midwest in 1980 and regained the Missouri title from Ken Patera ... Held it for nearly a year before losing to Jack Brisco on October 2, 1981 ... Suffered a severe spinal injury when piledriven by The Freebirds that year ("Came back as strong as ever") ... Teamed with Mr. Olympia to win the Mid-South tag team title in early 1983; they lost it to Magnum T.A. and Hacksaw Duggan on July 24 of that year ("Duggan is just a big goof") ... In Georgia, won two National titles and a tag team title with Steve O ... Cap-

## TED DiBIASE



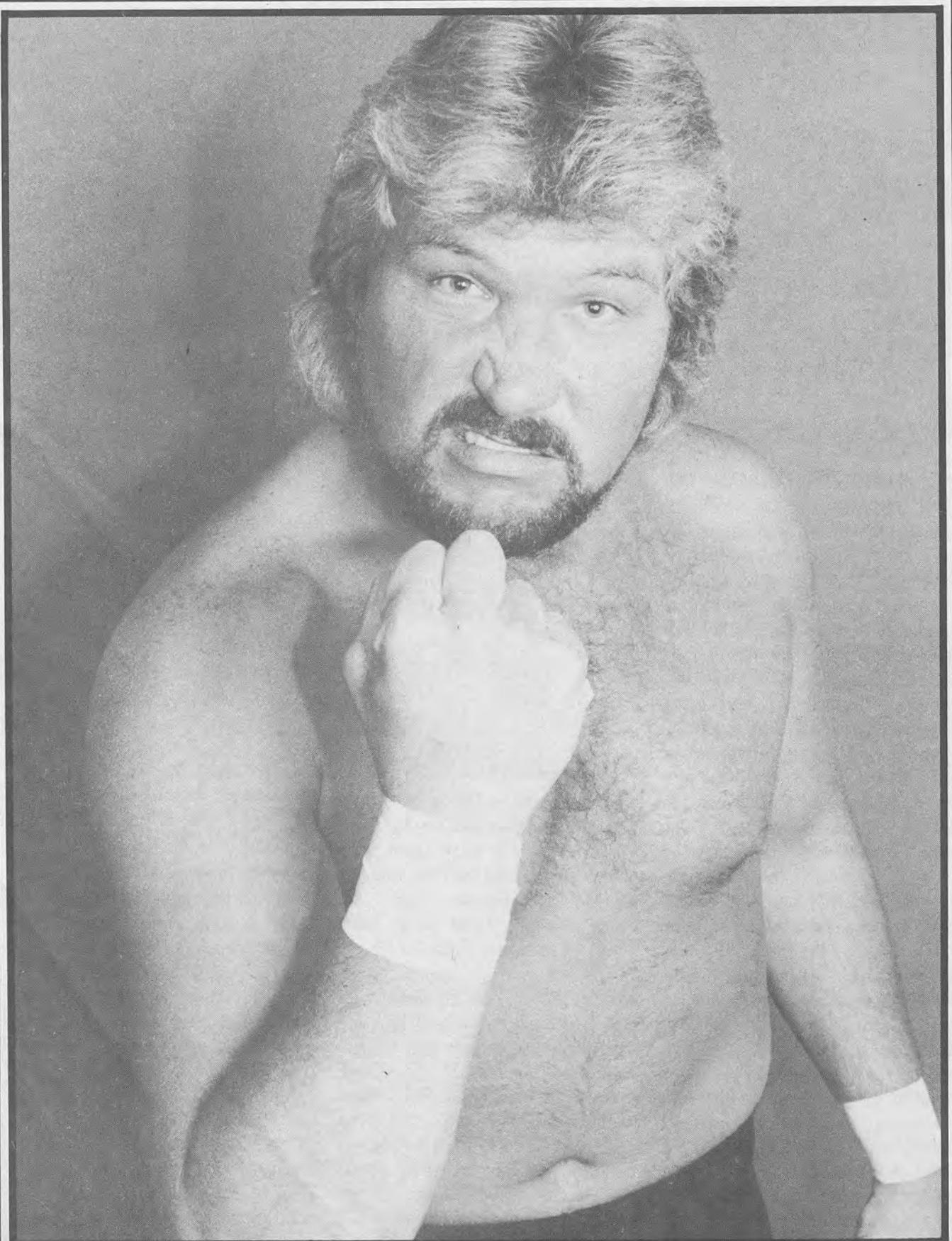
tured the North American title from Brad Armstrong on January 16, 1985

... Lost the belt to Terry Taylor three months later ... Also in 1985, enjoyed two Mid-South tag title reigns with Steve Williams ("There aren't many better tag partners than Steve") ... They feuded viciously with The Freebirds in 1986 ... In the summer of 1987, DiBiase left the UWF for the WWF, where he became the "Million-Dollar Man" and hired a bodyguard, Virgil ... Immediately infuriated fellow wrestlers and fans with his antics ("Too bad!") ... When Hulk Hogan refused to sell him the WWF World title, DiBiase made a similar offer to Andre the Giant, who accepted ... On February 5, 1988, Andre defeated Hogan under questionable circumstances and gave the title to DiBiase,

Ted DiBiase has no respect for Big Bossman's law and order; the "Million-Dollar Man" would rather pay for justice.

but WWF President Jack Tunney later disallowed the transaction ... Lost to Randy Savage in the finals of the WrestleMania IV World title tournament on March 27 ("All because of Hogan") ... Over the next three years, feuded extensively with Savage, Duggan, Jake Roberts, Dusty Rhodes, and Kerry Von Erich ... In November 1990, DiBiase's interference helped Curt Hennig regain the Intercontinental title from Von Erich ... Tension began to build between DiBiase and Virgil ... In 1991, Virgil finally broke away from his boss; they were to square off at WrestleMania VII on March 24 ("Virgil will have to learn his place the hard way!") □

## CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



**TED DiBIASE**

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## CHICAGO, IL By John Fela



**STING**  
vs.  
**RIC FLAIR**



Sting, still hurting from his loss of the NWA World title to Flair, dominated in the early going, but Flair took over after Sting missed with a "Stinger splash." Later on, Sting accidentally dropkicked the referee out of the ring. As Sting had Flair covered for the pin, another ref ran in and made the three-count. But as Sting began to celebrate, the original ref reversed the decision and disqualified Sting for knocking him out.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Doom defeated Barry Windham & Arn Anderson ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat The Freebirds ... U.S. champion Lex Luger defeated Sid Vicious by countout ... Mike Rotundo beat Terry Taylor ... Tom Zenk drew with Bobby Eaton.

## MILWAUKEE, WI By Andy Abrahamson



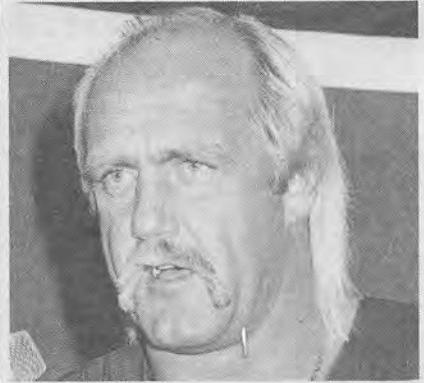
**DAVEY BOY SMITH**  
vs.  
**DINO BRAVO**



This contest between two of the most powerful men in the WWF started off with Smith battering Bravo with drop-kicks and devastating suplexes. When Bravo got the advantage, he put a camel clutch on Smith and kept it on for several minutes. But the former British Bulldog, who might even more powerful than the veteran Bravo, fought back and pinned Bravo with a backslide.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Hulk Hogan defeated Earthquake ... Kerry Von Erich pinned Ted DiBiase ... The Hart Foundation defeated Power & Glory ... Jake Roberts beat Rick Martel ... The Legion of Doom defeated Kato, Steve Lombardi, & Mr. Fuji ... "Mountie" Jacques Rougeau beat Tito Santana.

## PITTSBURGH, PA By Darric Bill



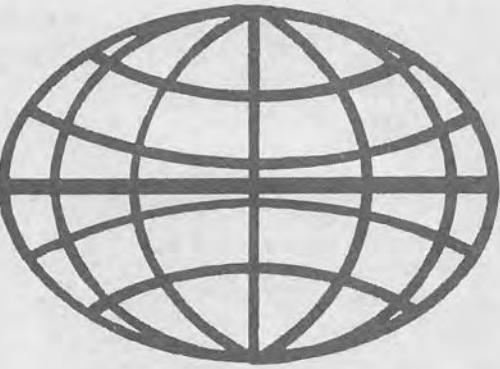
**HULK HOGAN**  
vs.  
**EARTHQUAKE**



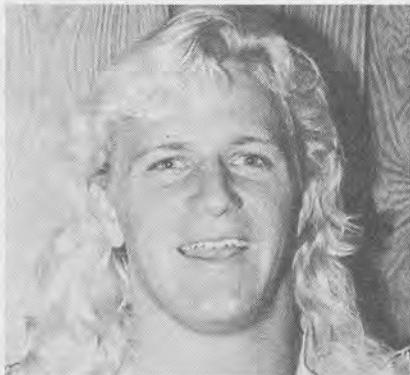
Hogan attacked 'Quake at the opening bell of this stretcher bout, but Jimmy Hart hit the "Hulkster" with his megaphone. As Hogan turned to grab Hart, Earthquake pounced. After bearhugging Hogan, Earthquake delivered an "earthquake" splash. But as the 'Quake called for the stretcher, Hulk grabbed the megaphone from Hart and knocked out both Hart and 'Quake. Hogan scored the pin, and Earthquake and Hart were carted from the ring on the same stretcher.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Tito Santana pinned Dino Bravo ... The Barbarian pinned Koko B. Ware ... "Mountie" Jacques Rougeau beat Jim Powers by submission ... The Hart Foundation beat Power & Glory ... The Nasty Boys beat The Rockers ... Kerry Von Erich pinned Ted DiBiase.

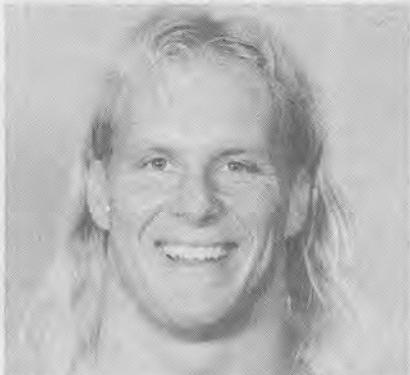
# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## LOUISVILLE, KY By Sean Underhill



**JEFF JARRETT**  
vs.  
**STEVE AUSTIN**



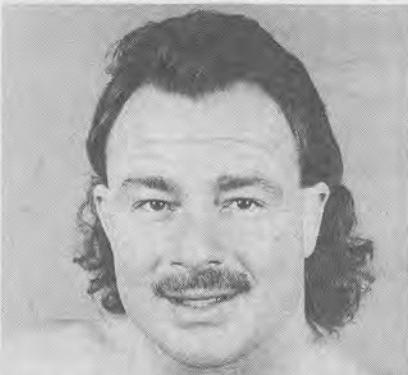
Austin and Southern champion Jarrett started out by shoving each other. Austin then maneuvered Jarrett into a single-leg Boston crab, but had to break the hold when Jarrett reached the ropes. Austin went right back to work on the leg, however, and tried for a figure-four leglock, but Jarrett kicked him off. Austin went for the figure-four again and was successful. When he tried it a third time, though, Jarrett rolled him up in a small package for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Danny Davis defeated Eli the Eliminator ... Eric Embry beat Cody Michaels ... Tony Anthony, Doug Gilbert, & Brian Lee beat The U.S. Males & Bill Dundee ... Tom Prichard beat Brian of The New Kids ... Paul Neighbors beat Jamie Dundee ... Jerry Lawler beat Eddie Gilbert by disqualification.

## NEW YORK, NY By Burton Crane



**BOB ORTON**  
vs.  
**B. BRIAN BLAIR**



After several minutes of hard-fought action, Orton threw Blair into referee Jesse Hernandez, knocking him out. So when Blair had Orton pinned, Hernandez couldn't make the count. As the two managers, John Tolos and Capt. Lou Albano, fought back to the dressing room, Orton recovered and piledriven Blair on the floor, rolled him back in the ring, and revived Hernandez to make the count. But Steve Ray ran in the ring and stopped the count. After Hernandez discovered what Orton had done, he disqualified him.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Cactus Jack drew with Don Muraco ... Paul Orndorff beat Steve Williams by disqualification ... Steve Ray pinned Carmine Albano ... Paul Orndorff pinned The Beast ... Bob Orton beat Sonny Beach by disqualification.

## ATLANTA, GA By Ed Burns



**BARRY WINDHAM**  
vs.  
**RON SIMMONS**



Doom's manager, Teddy Long, was handcuffed to the ring to prevent him from interfering, but that didn't stop Simmons' partner, Butch Reed, from getting involved. Simmons held Windham as Reed prepared to hit Barry with the belt from his pants. Barry ducked, Simmons took the blow, and Windham covered him. The referee, who'd been knocked out earlier, recovered and made the three-count. Afterward, Long and Reed fought with Simmons.

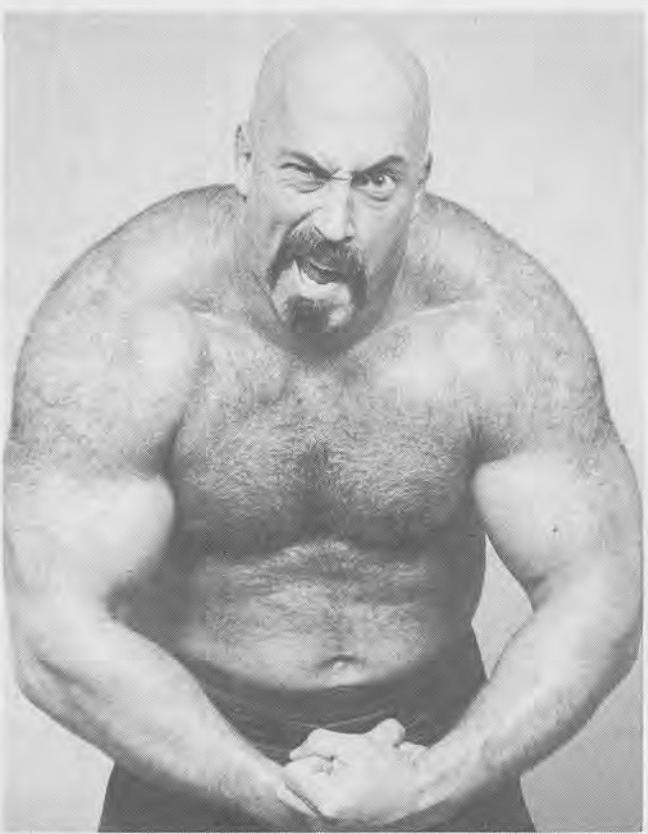
**OTHER BOUTS:** NWA World champ Ric Flair defeated El Gigante by disqualification ... Arn Anderson pinned Bobby Eaton ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat Dan Spivey & The Master Blaster ... Sting & Lex Luger battled Stan Hansen & Sid Vicious to a double-disqualification.



# Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

**ROANOKE, VA:** Here to watch—what else?—Sting vs. Ric Flair for Flair's NWA World title, and one thing continues to amaze me: how Flair not only cheats to save his title, but gets his opponents to make drastic mistakes that cost them their chance at his title. In this case, Flair won by disqualification when Sting threw him over the ropes. Let me tell you, though, it was a judgment call all the way. Flair roped Sting into it, but Sting deserved every inch of the DQ. Seems like right after he regains the title, Flair gets into this unbeatable groove, and that's what's going on right now. Can Sting beat him? Sure, but not yet. Not when he's throwing away chances by throwing Flair over the top rope. Not until order is restored and Flair gets off this ridiculous hot streak he's on. Happens every time. And people wonder why he's the seven-time World champion. As for the rest of the card, Butch Reed failed to show for his tag team title defense with Ron Simmons, and Big Cat had to step in. A fine precursor to what eventually happened at Wrestle War. Let me tell you, it's a shame that Teddy Long couldn't solve the problems surrounding Doom. They were a great team while they lasted. This is why any team with longevity—like The Legion of Doom or The Rockers—amazes me. It's tough for two men to stick together in this sport. Tougher still to do so and succeed.

**DALLAS, TX:** The Texas Wrestling Federation has a good thing going. With wrestlers like Brian Adias, Steve Simpson, Iceman Parsons, Terrance Garvin, Kevin Von Erich, and Angel of Death, the TWF isn't a bad way to spend a night out. Interesting thing about Texas wrestling: Years ago, it was the hottest thing going. World Class outdrew everyone. Then the NWA and the WWF started asserting their power, some tragic things happened in Texas, and the balance of power clearly shifted away from the Lone Star State. A few months ago, everybody declared the death of Texas wrestling. But this sport will never die here. Sure, it will have its ups and down, and the recession has hit hard in this state, but there's a core



**ANGEL OF DEATH**

of fans with wrestling in their blood. Wrestling will always have a place in Texas, just like it will always have a place in Georgia, Florida, New York, and everywhere else it has flourished. There are up cycles and down cycles. Texas wrestling is down right now, but with the TWF it's headed back on the right track and the fans will always be there. Good show, folks.

**PORLTAND, OR:** Walking into a Pacific Northwest card is like walking into an old-time Texas saloon: Anything can happen, and most of it's bad. The outlaws have been controlling the PNW for years, and things certainly haven't changed. This time, The Hood used a loaded glove to smash Steve Doll and win the PNW tag team

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**



**RICKY SANTANA**

title for himself and Brad Anderson. Fortunately, an assistant promoter saw what happened and a rematch was ordered. What happens? Hood and Anderson win again, and Hood is unmasked later in the card and revealed to be Ricky Santana, whose suspension had just run out. My point, you see, is that nothing ordinary *ever* happens in the PNW. There's always trouble. And with a crew that includes Larry Oliver, The Grappler, The Equalizer, Al Madril, and C.W. Bergstrom, is it any wonder? Is there a particular reason why the outlaws head to Oregon and make a home there? Yes. This is the way it used to happen in Texas, and now it's happening in Oregon, and the fans are loving it. But is it really wrestling? Or maybe I'm just getting too philosophical. Pass the brandy.

**ALBANY, NY:** Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake for the umpteenth time. Wonderful. Last night I went to a basketball game here and ran into the San Diego Chicken. Double-taked, because I thought he was the Gobbledy-Gooker, then realized that only in the WWF does such nonsense take place. Well, the WWF and the NWA. And the USWA. And . . . well, forget it. Forget the Chicken, although he's a wonderful guy. Let's get to the wrestling, if you want to call it that. Earthquake's fall in the WWF

rankings has only been equalled by Hogan's meteoric rise. This is being written well before WrestleMania VII, but I think a prediction is necessary: Hogan in a walk over Sgt. Slaughter. As the weeks go by, Hogan builds up more and more momentum. This match here against Earthquake is a perfect example of how Hogan is simply a step above the other WWF wrestlers these days, and that includes The Ultimate Warrior, Curt Hennig, and anyone



**HULK HOGAN VS. EARTHQUAKE**

else I can name. Besides Hogan-Earthquake, the usual WWF fast-food fare: Gen. Adnan vs. Hacksaw Duggan, Kerry Von Erich vs. Ted DiBiase, Tugboat vs. The Undertaker. But no Chicken. Sensational! Thought for sure he'd show up. Maybe next card. How's that for a WrestleMania VIII main event: Chicken vs. Gooker? Gads, this sport is getting to me.

**LAUGHLIN, NV:** Reggie Bennett is one of the biggest normal-sized women I've ever seen. I mean, she walks into the ring and it's astounding. Then the ring announcer tells you Bennett's 170 pounds, and all of a sudden your eyes go to those massive arms and those massive legs. She's a weightlifter, for goodness sake, and she's bigger than Jeff Jarrett! Anyway, she's definitely the Hulk Hogan of the LPWA, and certainly the next big female star in this sport—though I don't remember anybody asking for female wrestling stars in the first place. □

# **STEVE WILLIAMS' SHOCKING CLAIM: "AMERICAN WRESTLERS ARE WIMPS!"**

**America: land of the free, home of the brave. But in Steve Williams' mind, America is the home of cowardly wrestlers. Japan, it is said, has superior grapplers, and "Dr. Death" is concerned**

By Dave Rosenbaum

**T**HESSE ARE TIMES when the United States is asserting its strength in the world. The recent happenings in the Persian Gulf have proven American might beyond any doubt.

The United States moved forcefully forward and Saddam Hussein, the feared "Butcher of Bagdad" blinked and retreated.

*Photos by Roy London*

Americans strut and wear their flag proudly. America is powerful and strong again.

Steve Williams is an American through and through. Born and raised in Norman, Oklahoma, and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where he played football and wrestled, Williams is an example of the American dream come true. Anybody can become a success through hard work.

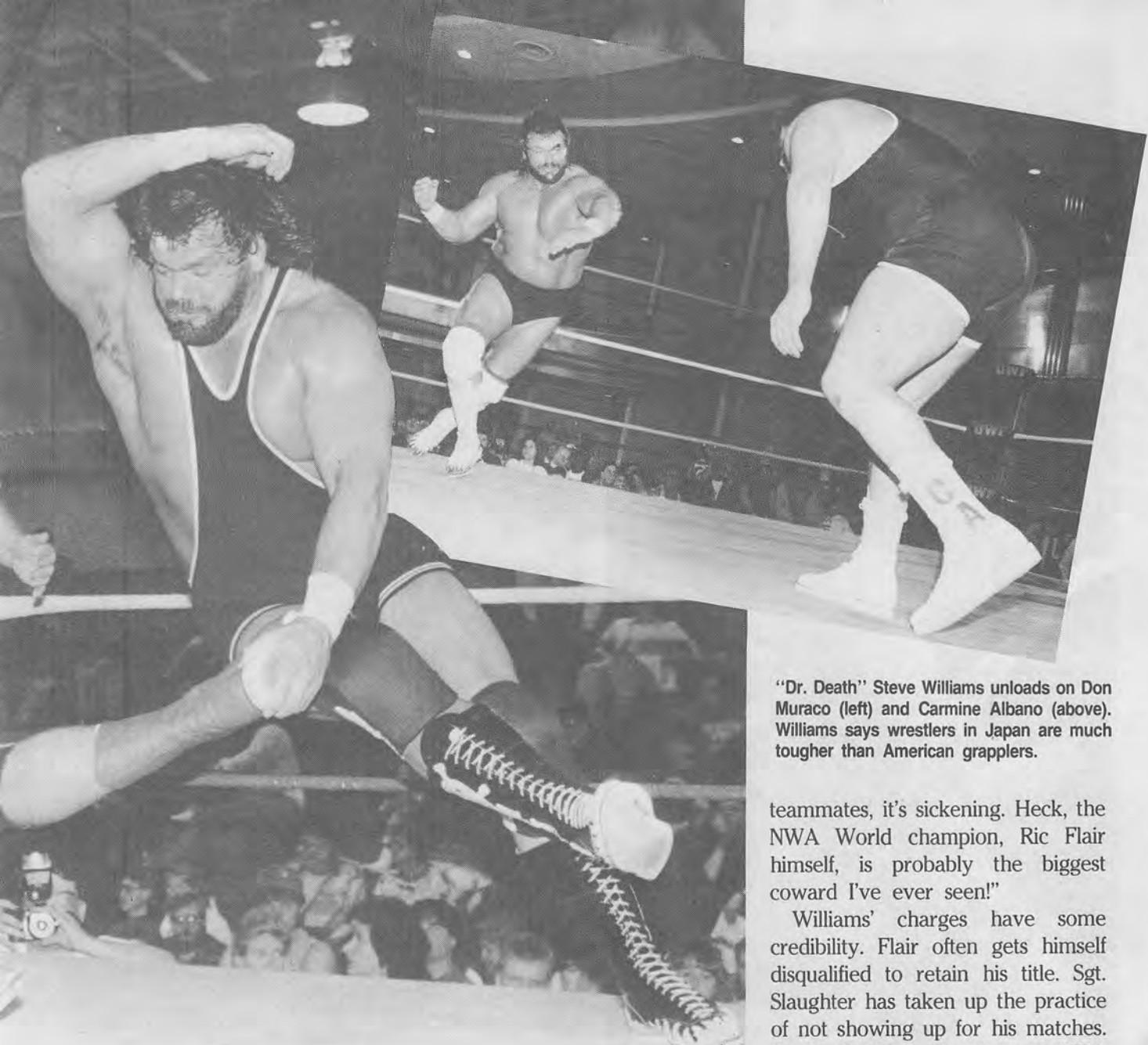
He's called "Dr. Death" because of his attitude and his bravery. "Stitch me up, doc, I've got a match tonight," Williams once ordered after suffering a 108-stitch cut on his head during an afternoon card.

Steve "Dr. Death" Williams is no wimp. He knows all about bravery. He knows all about American pride.

"Yeah, I know all about it," Williams said after destroying Carmine Albano in a recent UWF match in New York City. "But when it comes to wrestling, something's gone very wrong. Some of us can take it, but, for the most part, American wrestlers are wimps!"

Take that, America, coming from one of your strongest allies. "Dr. Death," a man who has often defended the integrity of American wrestling on foreign soil (Japan, in most cases), now has nothing but





"Dr. Death" Steve Williams unloads on Don Muraco (left) and Carmine Albano (above). Williams says wrestlers in Japan are much tougher than American grapplers.

contempt for the majority of wrestlers in this country.

Don't get him wrong. "Dr. Death" isn't becoming another anti-American American like Sgt. Slaughter. He's the same man he's always been. Tough, brutal, and brutally honest. Williams sees a problem here and he'd like to see it fixed.

"Take a guy like Carmine Albano," Williams said. "In Japan, there are dozens of prelim guys who would wipe the floor with him! The point is, while the quality of wrestling in Japan constantly improves, it's constantly getting worse here. And the worst part of it is that the

Japanese wrestlers are far braver than the American wrestlers."

Williams wasn't finished. His tirade against American wrestling was just heating up. And Williams had plenty of fuel for his fire.

"There are so many wrestlers in this country who are all size and no guts," Williams said. "Heck, I'll take a 140-pound weakling over a 250-pound muscle monster if the weakling has more character. That's why Stan Hansen has always been so successful in this country. He has guts. He's revered in Japan because he backs down from nobody. In this country, wrestlers run out of the ring, they hide behind their

teammates, it's sickening. Heck, the NWA World champion, Ric Flair himself, is probably the biggest coward I've ever seen!"

Williams' charges have some credibility. Flair often gets himself disqualified to retain his title. Sgt. Slaughter has taken up the practice of not showing up for his matches. Larry Zbyszko, the former AWA champion, did the same until he was stripped of his title.

But many American wrestlers are brave. Take Lex Luger, Sid Vicious, Hulk Hogan, and The Ultimate Warrior, all courageous men who aren't afraid to fight.

"They're not the people I'm talking about," Williams said. "Sure, there are men here who have guts, and I'm sure they'd do very well in Japan. But they're the exception. In Japan, they're the rule."

Williams knows what he's talking about because he spends a great deal of his time wrestling in Japan. Williams says it's much easier to prepare for a match in Japan than



Kenta Kobashi is typical of the Japanese wrestlers Williams admires (above left). He says a match like this one between Riki Choshu and Animal Hamaguchi (above right) is his kind of bout.

it is to prepare for a match in the United States.

"I know I'm going to be in for a battle to the finish, so I don't have any trouble getting psyched," Williams said. "In the United States, half my matches are cakewalks. These guys don't even have the

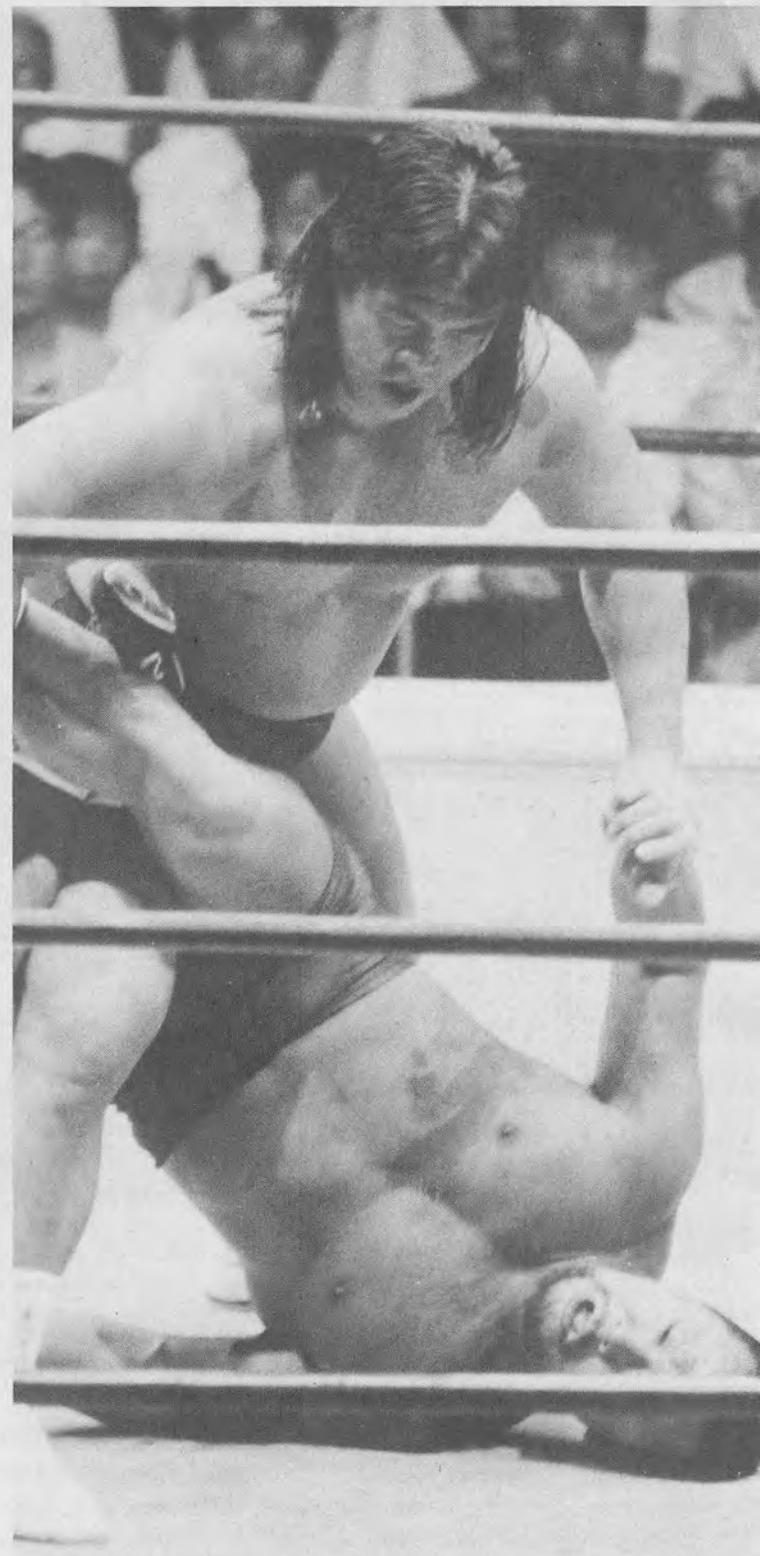
guts to give me a battle. At least make me work for my living."

Not surprisingly, many American wrestlers disagree with Williams. Flair, whom Williams identified as a coward, also has wrestled in both countries.

"I really don't understand what

he's talking about," Flair said. "Sure, you have your truly great, genuinely brave wrestlers in Japan, but then they come over here and they have trouble with the American wrestlers. I think Williams is just talking out of spite. After all, what's

*(Continued on page 62)*





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Replica belt by  
Mike Vartanian

# WHY THE INTERCONTINENTAL BELT HAS LOST ITS LUSTRE

By Stu Saks

**A**T ONE POINT in his career, Hulk Hogan was so good, he was boring. For a period of about four years after he won his first WWF World championship, the "Hulkster" was so dominant, there was never any doubt he would successfully defend his title every time out.

For a long period of time, the Intercontinental championship was considered by many to be the most exciting title in the WWF. Has interest in the I-C title waned, or could it be that another title has captured the imagination of the fans?

That was when the Intercontinental title flourished.

If you're the kind of fan who goes to the matches just to see your favorite wrestler kick some butt, Hulk Hogan was your champion. But if hotly contested title matches are what get your blood flowing, you had no farther to look than the I-C title.

There have been a lot of excellent Intercontinental champions in the 12-year history of the title, but there has never been one so good that you were sure he would be the winner before the match even started. In fact, the one wrestler who held the I-C belt the longest, The Honky Tonk Man, entered the majority of his matches as a distinctive *underdog*.

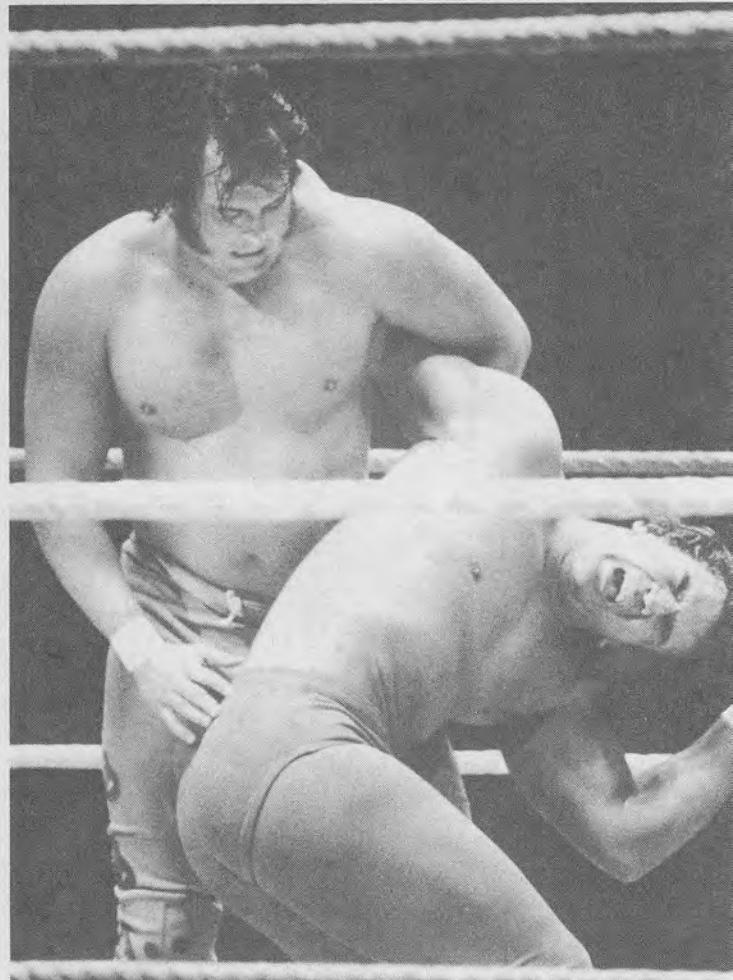
"The Intercontinental title was the real wrestling fan's title," said Don Muraco, a two-time holder of the belt. "The World title was boring, unless you're into seeing a bleached-blond Venice Beach musclehead doing his thing after a five-minute walkover. The *real* wrestling fans wanted something more."

Like competition. Like the possibility that the man who walked into the ring wearing the belt might not be the man who walked out of the ring wearing the belt.

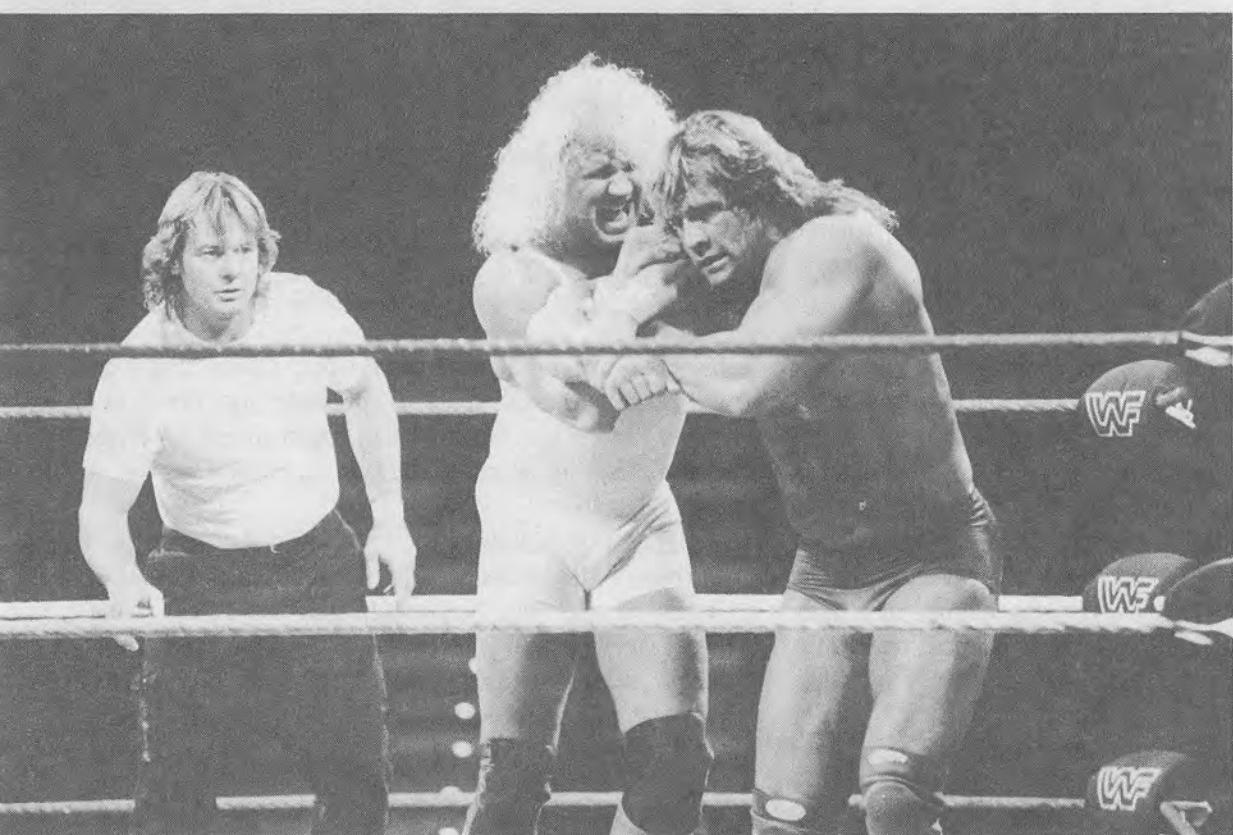
*Photos by Roy London*



Roddy Piper has almost no respect for the current Intercontinental champion, "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig.



One of the most memorable upsets in wrestling history occurred when The Honky Tonk Man captured the I-C title from Rick Steamboat in 1987.



Piper was special referee for a series of bouts between champion Hennig and the man from whom he won the title, Kerry Von Erich.



Because Hulk Hogan isn't as dominant as he was in the mid-'80s, more attention has shifted to the goings-on of the World title.

That was the true excitement of the Intercontinental title. And that excitement still exists, but there's only one problem: That same excitement level exists for the WWF World title.

Since the beginning of 1990, the World title has changed hands twice, and the odds are strongly in favor of another title change at WrestleMania VII. Even if Hogan does beat Sgt. Slaughter, as expected, he can never again be expected to be as dominant as he was during the mid-'80s. And that, according to former WWF World champion Stan Stasiak, is good.

"A world title needs to be competitive to be exciting," said Stasiak, who held the belt for nine days back in 1973. "What's happening in the WWF is similar to what has happened in the heavyweight division in boxing over the past year. Once Mike Tyson was knocked out by Buster Douglas, suddenly the whole division became more competitive. Without a single dominant champion, the division became exciting again. It was great for boxing, and this will be great for wrestling."

But not so great for the Intercontinental title. After Hogan defeated The Iron Sheik for the World title in January of 1984, he went until February of 1988 before



When Greg Valentine and Tito Santana battled for the Intercontinental belt in 1984 and '85, fan interest was high.

he was dethroned by Andre the Giant. During that four-year span, he crushed every challenger the WWF put before him. It was fun to watch Hogan thrash his seedy challengers, but from an athletic standpoint it was a dreadful bore.

During that four-year period, we saw a succession of I-C champs that included Tito Santana, Greg Valentine, Randy Savage, Rick Steamboat, and The Honky Tonk Man. Until Honky Tonk set an I-C record with a 14-month reign, the average length of reign of the four previous titleholders was a mere 6½ months. The competitive nature of just about every Intercontinental title match tremendously boosted the excitement level of the WWF as a whole.

But, now, with everybody's attention focused on the competitive World title scene, people seem to have taken little notice of the I-C belt lately. "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig's title defense against Big Bossman was promoted as a mid-level match for WrestleMania VII, the biggest WWF card of the year.

"You'd think that the number-two title would be the semifinal on the card," noted Muraco. "I don't think it was in the top five in terms of promotion and fan interest."

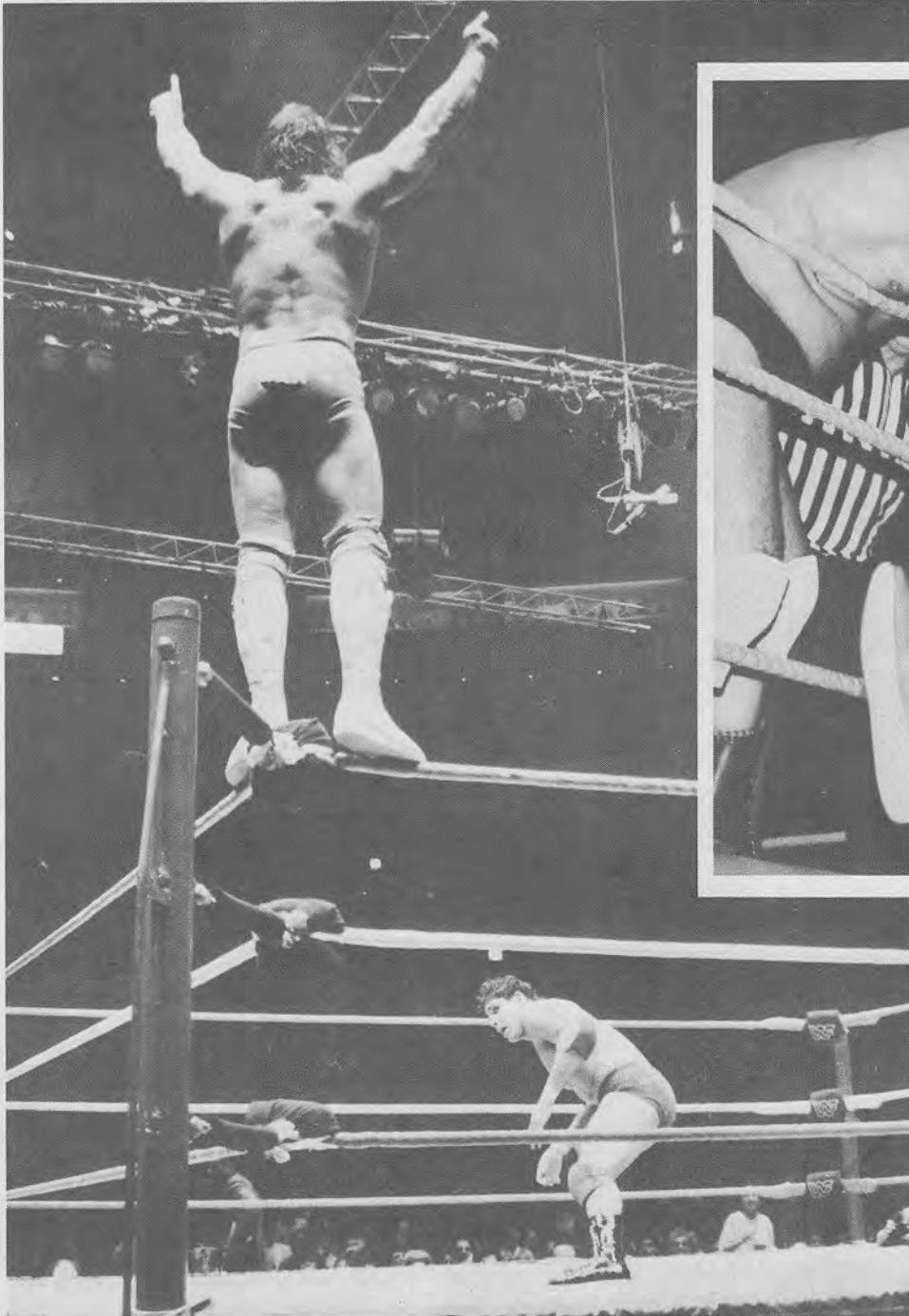
Muraco's observation was supported by an informal poll of 100 *Inside Wrestling* subscribers, who were asked to rate their interest in the 14 matches scheduled for WrestleMania VII. Number one, by a large margin, was Hogan vs. Slaughter. That match was followed in order by Randy

Savage vs. Ultimate Warrior, Hart Foundation vs. Nasty Boys, Legion of Doom vs. Power & Glory, and then Hennig vs. Bossman.

The Intercontinental championship's apparent drop in popularity probably cannot be attributed to its current champion. Hennig, most agree, is one of the most talented I-C champions ever. His matches are always exciting and he has an abundance of charisma.

"Hennig's fine," noted Stasiak, "there's nothing wrong with him. But the hot stock in the WWF right now is the World title. And when the World title is hot, nothing else matters." □

Before he became World champion, "Macho King" Randy Savage's main focus was the Intercontinental title held by Santana (bottom left).



Don Muraco, who had some classic I-C title bouts with Pedro Morales (above), laments the Intercontinental championship's loss of prestige.



**TAG TEAM  
THUNDER!**

**Sit back, fans, and enjoy Rick and Scott Steiner. They dazzle you with their incredible moves and maneuvers, impress you with their awesome physiques, and stun opponents with their magnificent power. And they're only getting started!**

# RICK & SCOTT STEINER

## The Best Is Yet To Come

By Craig Peters

**S**TANDING STILL OR blazing across the squared circle, Rick and Scott Steiner are a sight to see.

Check out their shoulder muscles, packed with power and seemingly threatening to burst through the very skin itself.

Check out Scott's explosive "Frankensteiner," the first big finishing maneuver of the 1990s, already being emulated by such athletes as Marty Jannetty, Shawn Michaels, Thunder Riger, and Shane Douglas. Nobody does it better than Scott, though.

Check out their arms, bulging with sinew, able to transform the average clothesline into the stunningly formidable "Steinerline."

Check 'em out, fans, then consider this most remarkable of facts:

They've been a team for less than two years!

Rick broke into the sport in 1984; Scott a year later. Both pursued mainly singles careers for several years before they crossed paths in the NWA in 1989, where they decided to follow in the tradition of excellence set down by such broth-

er teams as the Andersons, Briscos, and the Funks.

Their first big bout as a tandem took place at the Great American Bash on July 23, 1989. Managed by Missy Hyatt, they defeated Kevin Sullivan and Mike Rotundo. Less than four months later, they rocketed to the top of the fede-

Scott Steiner's "Frankenstein" is one of the greatest maneuvers ever devised.



tion by defeating Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin for the NWA World tag team title on November 1 in Atlanta.

A long string of achievements followed: Scott nabbed "Most Improved Wrestler of the Year" honors for 1989 . . . The duo defeated and unmasked Doom at Clash of the Champions X on February 6, 1990 . . . They lost the World belts

to Doom at Capital Combat '90 on May 19, but rebounded to capture the U.S. tag team belts from The Midnight Express on August 24 . . . Their excellence throughout 1990 won them "Tag Team of the

Year" honors from the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine.

It's a list of accomplishments that any team would covet, yet the Steiners have amassed these honors—and carved themselves into

perhaps the most athletic and versatile tandem in the sport today—in a remarkably brief period of time.

"And this is just the beginning," said Scott. "Me and Rick, we're both a couple of workhorses, whether it's in the gym or the sparing ring or you name it."

"I think a lot of it boils down to what our pop taught us when we were growing up," said Rick. "He always taught us that no matter how good you are, there's always room for improvement. Nobody is perfect. So what you do, you see, is just kind of keep working to eliminate the most obvious imperfections. When you got that licked, you move on to the next one, and so on. I don't know, maybe it sounds, I guess it's kind of . . ."

"What it is," Rick joined in, "is that Pop taught us to rely on ourselves, to never sit still and be content with what we are when there is something we know we can do in order to make ourselves better persons—in all phases of our life. We carry that point of view over into the ring in a real big way."

Indeed. When Scott was being criticized a few years back for being a one-dimensional power wrestler, he developed a series of stunning suplex variations. Then he developed the "Frankensteiner." Then came the "tilt-a-whirl" suplex.

"Can't keep sitting still," Scott said with a broad grin. "You gotta keep the competition guessing, gotta keep coming up with new and different weapons in the arsenal."

"Me, I like being the best at something everybody else tries to do, but can't quite get right," said Rick, referring to his "Steinerline" clothesline. "Everybody seems to do the clothesline today, but it's more than just an average move. It's training in the gym to increase the power in the arms, it's learning to unleash it at the right instant and with the greatest speed. Like in boxing. You can jab someone and it won't do a damn thing, or



Rick's "Steinerline" (above) is like a cannon shot to the chest. Once known as simply a power wrestler, Scott has improved to the point where he can give Ric Flair a very competitive NWA World title match (below).



you can jab someone so quickly—like snapping a wet towel in the shower—that it's gonna take the guy right off his feet. That's my 'Steinerline'—like snapping a wet towel that takes off the head of my opponent!"

Perhaps the most striking aspect of speaking with Rick and Scott is the fact that their enthusiasm so pervades their entire beings. These are men who are not content to just sit still and rest on their laurels. They're going to continue to do what they've done for the past two years: improve their teamwork, improve their physiques, improve their repertoires.

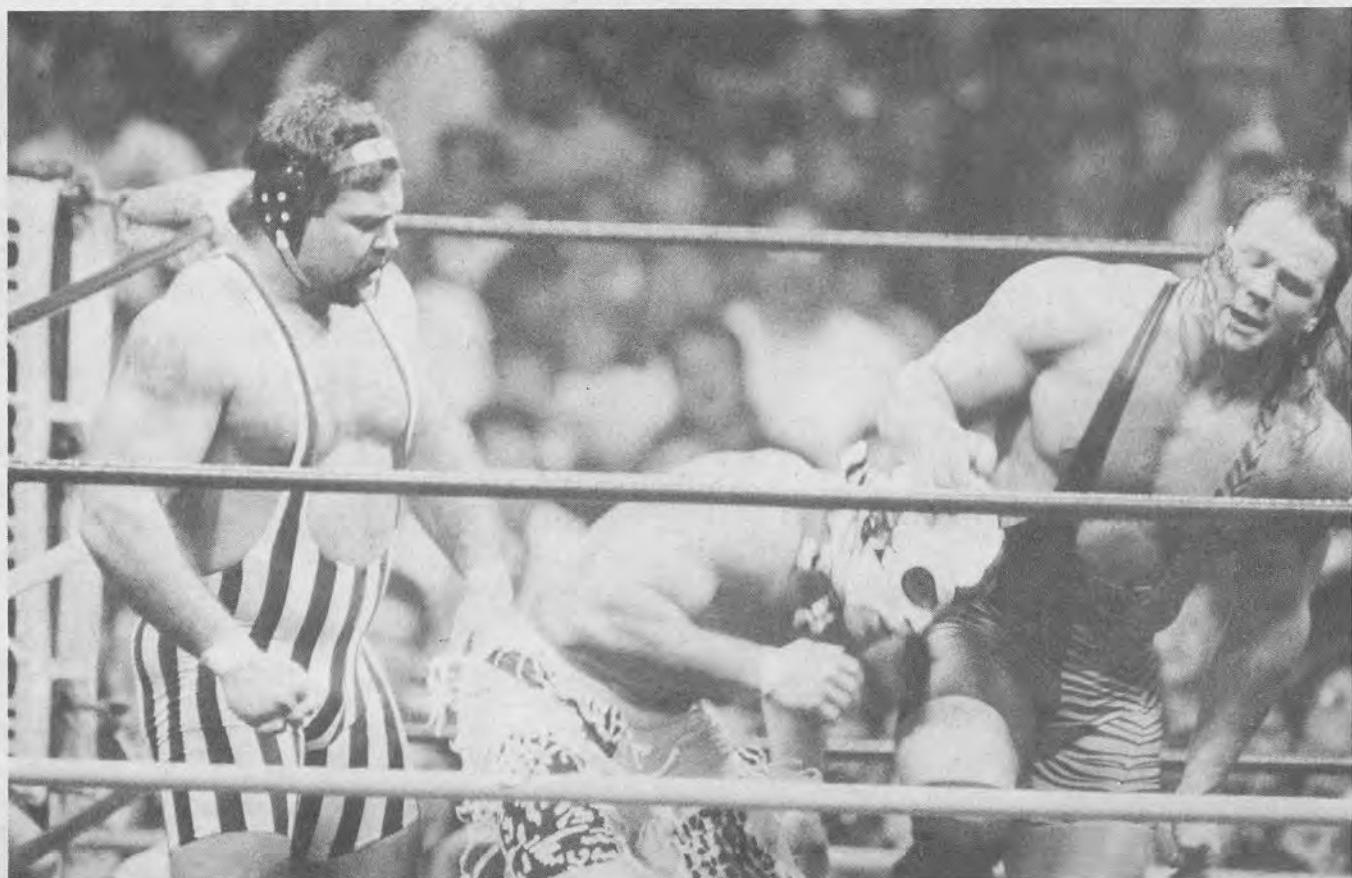
Today, after two years of solid teaming, Rick and Scott Steiner are a truly awesome tandem. Imagine how much more awesome they will be after two more years of teaming . . . or *five* more years!

"Stick around, fans, the '90s is gonna be the decade of the Steiners!" howled Scott.

"You better believe it, brother," agreed Rick. "This sport ain't seen nothin' yet!" □



A Steiner suplex is executed with superb precision (above). At Starrcade '90, the Steiners defeated the Mexican team (below) en route to capturing the international tag team tournament. That victory established them as one of the world's finest duos.

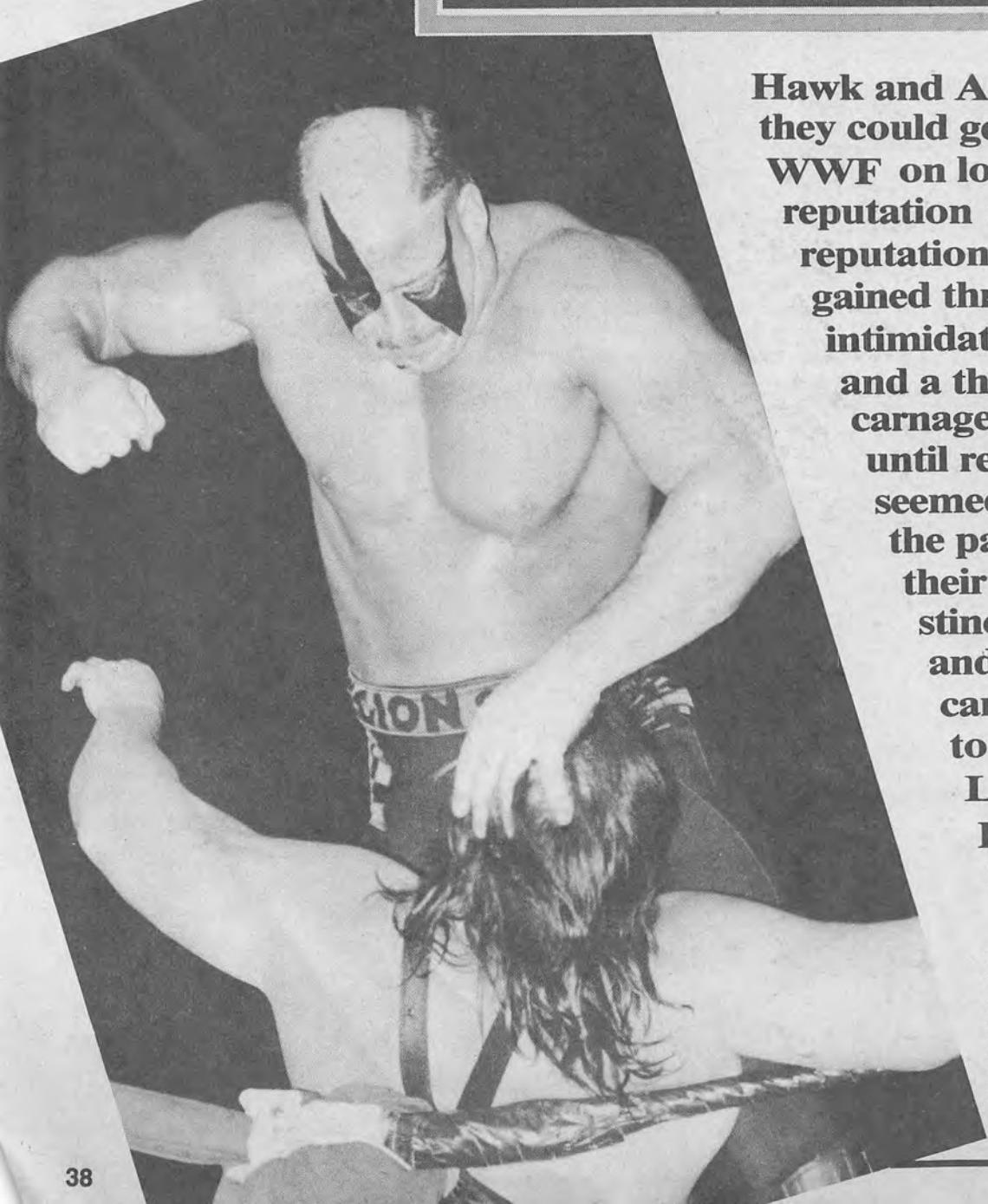


TAG TEAM  
THUNDER!

# THE LEGION MEAN AND

Hawk and Animal thought they could get by in the WWF on looks and reputation alone. Their reputation was gained through intimidation and a thirst for carnage that, until recently, seemed lost in the past. But their killer instinct is back—and nobody can hope to beat The Legion of Doom now!

The Legion of Doom's new attitude shows through as they pound away on Demolition Smash (left) and Crush (right).



# OF DOOM HUNGRY AGAIN!

By Dave Rosenbaum

KILLER INSTINCT IS certainly the most intangible aspect of wrestling. Who has it? Who doesn't? Who looks like they have it, but doesn't? Some wrestlers simply look the part. Others, like the new Terry

Taylor, don't look the part at all, but are ferociously motivated.

The Legion of Doom certainly looks the part. With their frightening face makeup, spiked leather outfits, and muscularly imposing physiques, Hawk and Animal are among the most intimidating men in wrestling.

In the NWA, there was no team more feared than The Road Warriors, as Hawk and Animal were then known. Although they won only one NWA World tag team title, their reputation was vaunted: Wrestle the Warriors and there's a good chance you'll walk out of the ring with a few busted limbs.

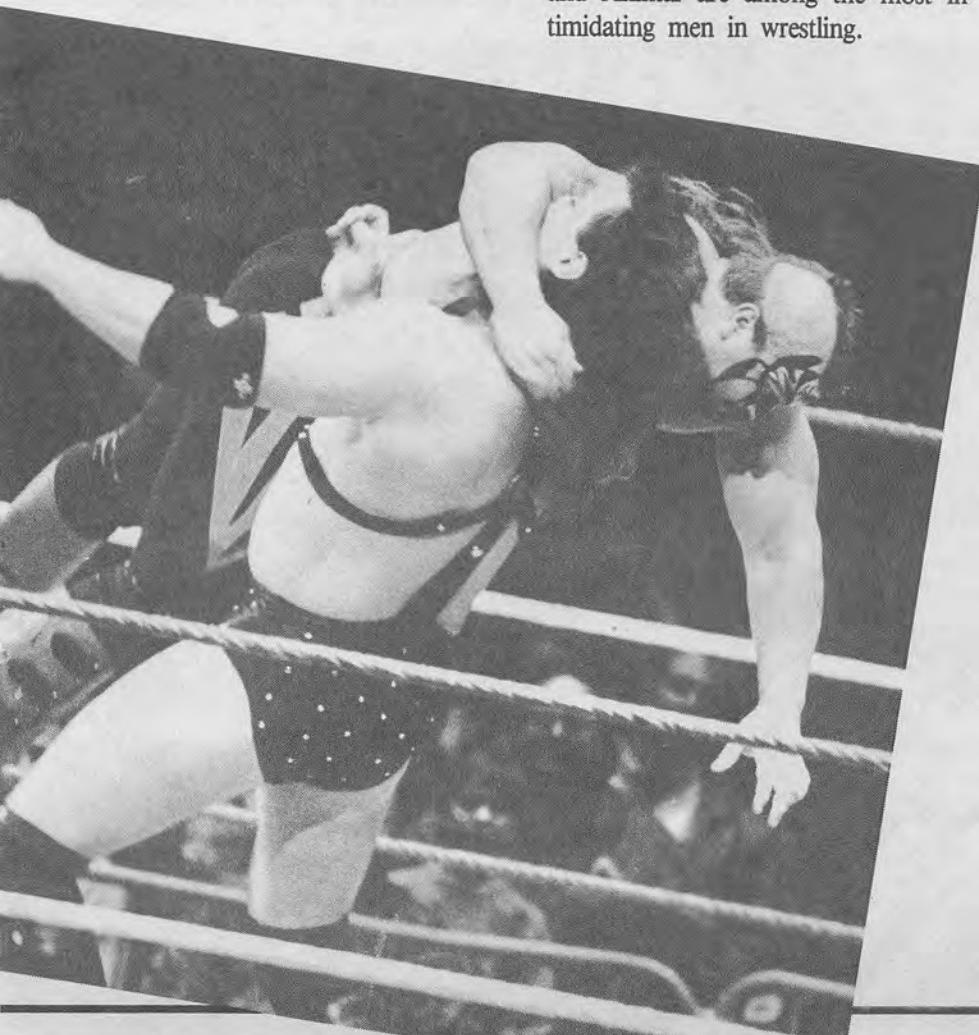
They'd attack before the bell, furiously rushing through the ropes to maul their opponents, then maintain a relentless attack until the slaughter was complete.

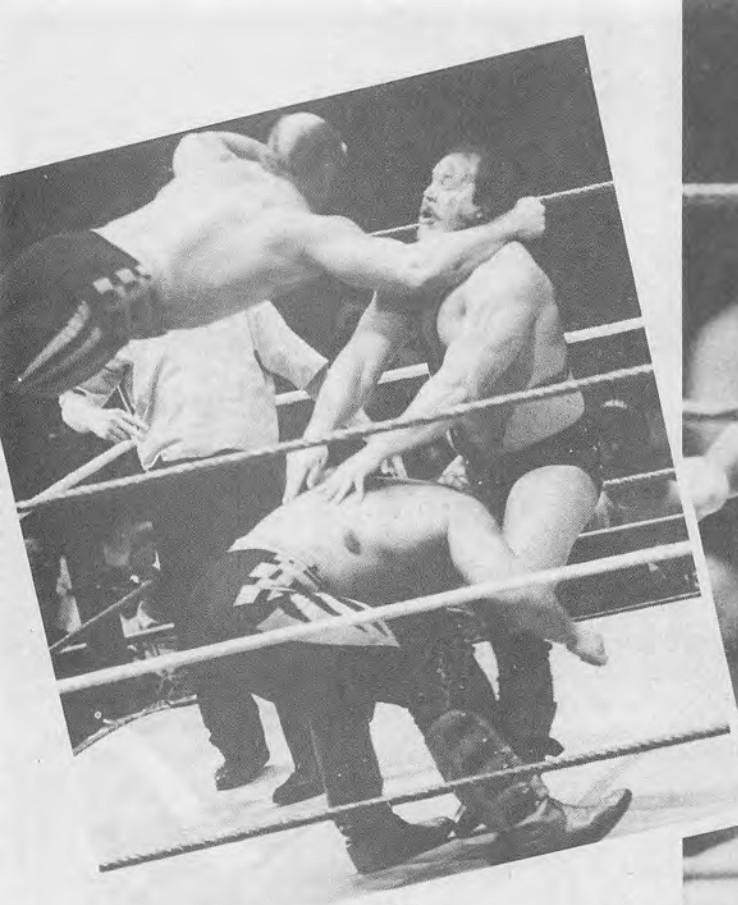
Hawk and Animal are not magnificently skilled wrestlers; they get by on intimidation, desire, and that most intangible of intangibles: killer instinct. Without their deep desire to destroy, they're just another tag team.

Which is what they've been in the WWF—until very recently. It almost seemed as if Hawk and Animal tried to get by on their reputations when they first arrived in the WWF. But things have changed. Suddenly, Hawk and Animal have the "look" again.

The killer instinct is back!

It started to show when Hawk and Animal destroyed the inferior tag team of Keith Steinborn and Chris Silverman. That was a massacre, a Road Warriors-type massacre. But it has become more evident in their dominating victories over Demolition, the





former WWF World tag team champions.

"They're simply proving who's boss," said their former manager, Paul Ellering. "They're leaving no doubt that the Hawk and Animal of old are back, and that they don't plan to stop until they win the WWF World tag team title, and do so decisively. Marginal victories were never enough for my boys, and they're not enough now. Domination is the goal."

Just like the days of old, when winning a title was a matter of achievement, but ruling the wrestling world was a matter of pride. And, to be sure, pride has always been Hawk and Animal's main motivating factor.

Something was surely missing when Hawk and Animal first arrived in the WWF. There were new wrestlers to wrestle, new arenas to wrestle in, new surroundings, and new faces in the locker rooms. Although The Road Warriors had a reputation, the WWF stripped them of that reputation by stripping them of their name and their remarkable history.

In the WWF, everybody has to start over. The past means nothing. Reputa-

The Legion of Doom has been demonstrating to Demolition, the three-time former WWF World tag team champions (top left, above, and below), that they're back as a force in the sport.



tion doesn't exist. Curt Hennig, a former AWA World champion, started at the bottom. So did Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson.

Once the contracts were signed (and reputation certainly means a lot in con-



The Orient Express is the latest team to be victimized by Hawk and Animal (top). Animal whips Sgt. Slaughter with his own riding crop during a battle royal (below).

tract talks), the past was forgotten. The casual fans, those unfamiliar with the NWA and the AWA, were never told about Hawk and Animal's past accomplishments. Those fans only saw two very big men in very unusual outfits, but who hadn't they seen that before? After all, isn't that what Demolition was?

In a federation where appearance has often been deceiving, Hawk and Animal couldn't get by on looks alone.

And how about the wrestlers, many of whom only knew from word of mouth how devastating and dangerous the Warriors could be? A team must experience the incredible power of Hawk and Animal to really know what it's all about.

"I think Hawk and Animal got lazy when they first went to the WWF," Ellering said. "In the NWA and AWA, everybody knew what they were all about, and that gave them an edge before they stepped into the ring. It's one thing to have to work to intimidate an opponent, but when it's already been done, there's no reason to work as hard."

Said NWA expert Donald Wayne:

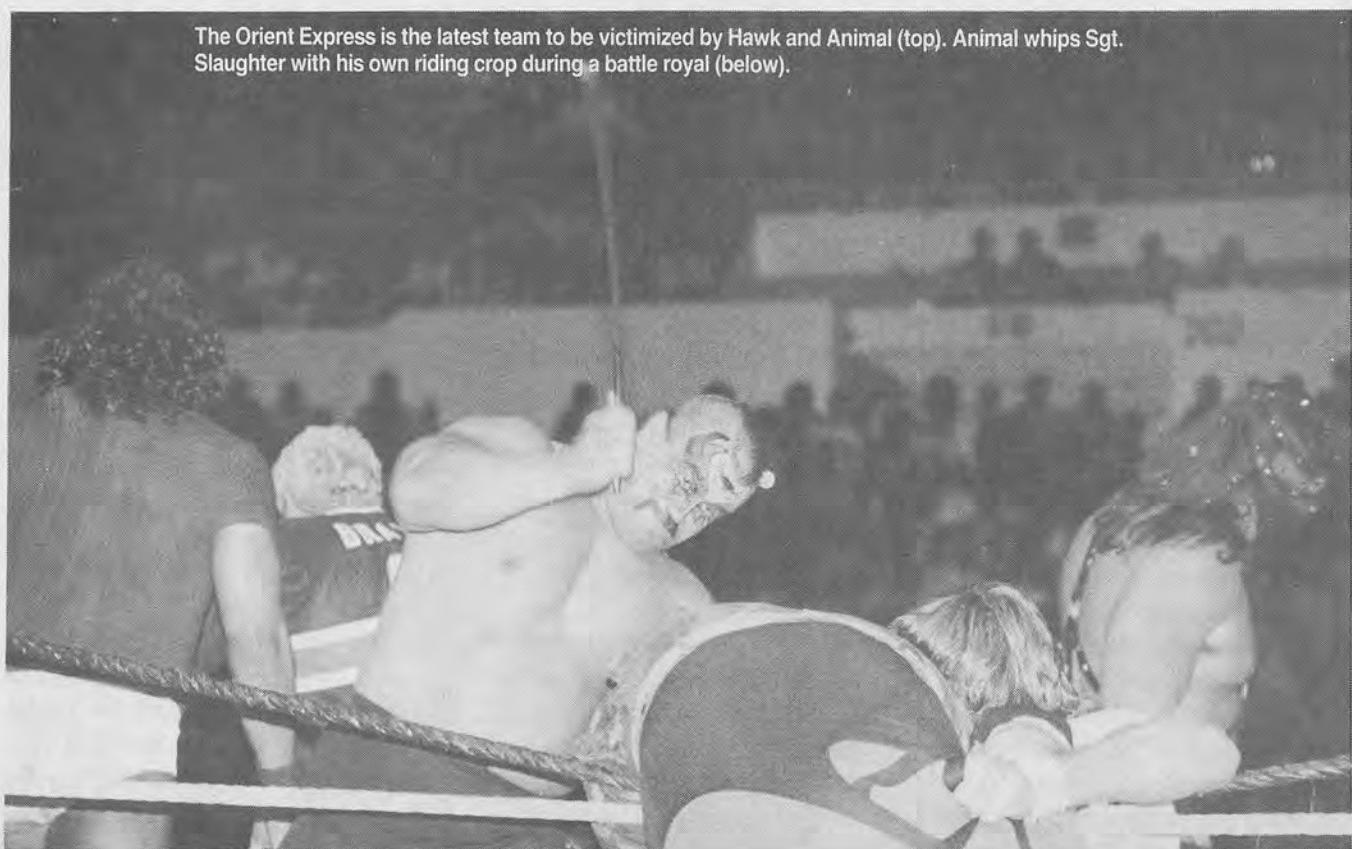
"The Warriors were getting lazy in the NWA, and they didn't pick it up when they got to the WWF. You know, for all of their hard work in the gym, the Warriors sometimes don't go that extra mile. Now they're doing it. Now they're realizing that unless they start motoring in the WWF, they'll be contenders for the rest of their careers, just like they were for most of their stay in the NWA."

Fearsome, perhaps, but underachieving.

So Hawk and Animal have changed, and their goal is now clear: Win the WWF World title. Anybody who has any doubt that Hawk and Animal are back need only look to their match against The Orient Express on the February 1 *Main Event* prime-time broadcast on NBC: It was an example of utter devastation by Hawk and Animal.

And any WWF team that thinks they can handle The Legion of Doom now ought to speak with the Express and Mr. Fuji. They know firsthand what the rest of the WWF and the entire wrestling world is finding out:

Hawk and Animal are back! □



# HOTSEAT

## NIKITA KOLOFF

### "I'M BACK TO RECLAIM WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY MINE!"

**W**HATEVER HAPPENED TO Nikita Koloff? For the past two years, the massively powerful Russian grappler has been in a state of semi-retirement. Following the death of his wife, Mandy, in 1989, Koloff chose to devote the majority of his time to running his gym and wrestling training center in Concord, North Carolina. But the fiercely competitive Koloff could never stay away from the ring for long, and made occasional appearances in independent federations.

Upon arriving in the U.S. in 1984, Koloff quickly established himself as a superstar, holding the NWA U.S., TV, and World tag team titles. All through his recent semi-retirement, he knew deep-down that a time would come when he would lust to wear a belt around his waist again.

Koloff grew increasingly frustrated with his low profile. He watched in silent anger as Lex Luger—the man who defeated him for the U.S. belt in 1987—enjoyed four reigns as champion. Koloff kept up his image as the man who renounced the Soviet ideology of his uncle, Ivan, in 1987. Inside, however, he was seething.

At Wrestle War '91, Koloff was selected to present Luger with a new U.S. belt, but instead used the occasion to smash the belt across Luger's

face. He then removed the do-rag covering his head and his shirt, and the fans were shocked at what they saw: a shaved head and layers of rock-hard muscle. Make no mistake: Nikita Koloff—the old Nikita Koloff—had returned.

Associate Editor Bob Smith traveled to Concord to speak with Koloff following an exercise session at his gym. It was a workout that Koloff said was designed to "increase his crippling capacity."

“

I want the United States title back. It is Lex Luger who stole the belt from me.

”

Q: Nikita, I've seen a lot of men change their attitudes during the past few years, but I never dreamed you'd return to rule-breaking. What happened to the upbeat man I spoke with a couple of years

ago? Even with all your personal problems, you were one of the most optimistic men I've ever met.

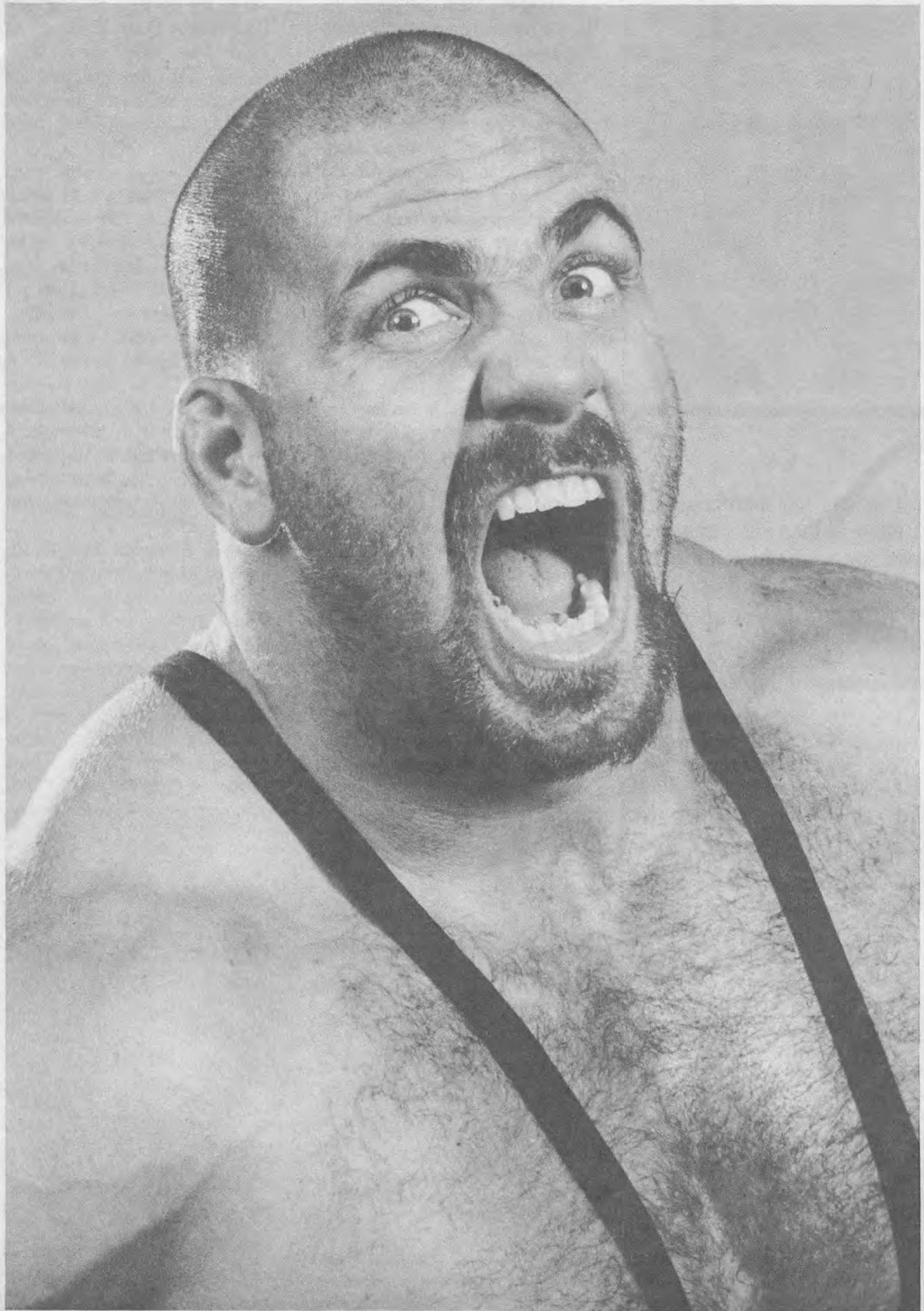
A: I don't want to talk about the past. You know, you have been on good terms with Nikita before. I see no reason why we cannot be on friendly terms in the future. However, you must play by my rules. I am a different person these days. Nikita has grown up.

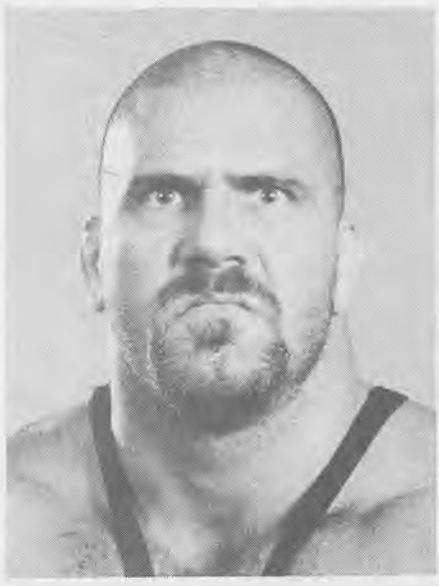
Q: What does that mean?

A: It means that I have come to realization that wrestling is a sport full of bandits. It is a profession full of mean, selfish people who care only of themselves. It took me years to figure this out, but now I know it is true. There is no one I can trust in the NWA anymore. I am now out to reestablish myself as the greatest wrestler ever to come from the Soviet Union. More important, I'm back to reclaim what's rightfully mine.

Q: Now I'm really confused. What does that mean?

A: You are slow to comprehend, so I will speak slowly so even you can understand me. I want the United States title back. It has been four years since I wore that belt around my waist. And it is Lex Luger who stole the belt from me. I will never





“

I am stronger than Luger,  
stronger than Sid Vicious,  
even stronger than that fool El  
Gigante.

”

forget the day: June 11, 1987. Greensboro, North Carolina. A steel cage match. A day that will live in symphony.

Q: Uh, I think you mean *in infamy*.  
A: Don't interrupt me. All I know is that is the day when I found out what American wrestling was really all about. I had injured my neck at that point, and I was forced to wrestle with a neck brace on or they would take my title away from me. Luger was a member of The Four Horsemen, and it was a Horseman conspiracy that did me in, not Luger's ability. His manager, J.J. Dillon, threw a chair in the cage, and he used it to knock me out. The stupid referee stopped the match when he saw I was unconscious. Then they took the belt away from me . . . they took it all away.

Q: Even I have to admit that you *were* robbed. But you've never let your frustrations show before now. For

years, you've been an exceedingly popular scientific wrestler. Why, all of a sudden, have you decided to return to rulebreaking nearly four years after you lost that match?

A: It is that Luger that has done it to me. I am sick to my stomach watching him preen around the ring, calling himself the greatest U.S. champion ever because he's held the belt four times. He is not great at all. I beat him before. Michael Hayes has beaten him for the U.S. title. So has Stan Hansen.

Q: You forgot Dusty Rhodes. He beat Lex for the title, too.

A: I would *like* to forget Dusty Rhodes. For years, he has been going around claiming that he was the one who made the Superpowers a great team. Now I am not afraid to say what I really think about Dusty. He is a fat, untalented bore. He is, how you say, a big blowhard. I carried that team. Every time we won a match, it was me who scored the pinfall. Dusty is a typical American wrestler—a liar.

Q: He's retired now, so he obviously poses no threat to you.

A: I don't care if he's retired or not. I understand he is a television commentator now. If Dusty gets in my way in any matter, I assure you it

will be the last thing he ever does. I am sick of Dusty. I am sick of Luger. I am sick of the NWA.

Q: If you're so tired of everything that's going on around the NWA, then why did you decide to come back?

A: It's because too many people in the NWA were going around saying Nikita Koloff was finished. I heard all the rumors. "Nikita has lost his strength. Nikita has lost his fight. Nikita is afraid." Well, I am not afraid of anyone or anything. Look at the workout I just completed. I lifted 400 pounds like it was nothing. I am bigger and better than I have ever been before. But to prove it to the world, I decided to go back to my past.

Q: Does that mean you've returned to the teachings of your uncle, Ivan, once again?

A: Oh, not *this* again! First of all, don't hit me with that "evil" Soviet mentality nonsense. Russian training methods are totally honorable. I am an American citizen now. What I mean to say is that Uncle Ivan's teachings about mental toughness have not been in vain. I still do not necessarily agree with him about the theory that Russia is greater than United



Koloff has battled NWA World champion Ric Flair in the past, and now says he has learned to respect Flair for his accomplishments.



States. Who can really say? But I agree with Ivan about mental outlook and preparation. You must believe you are the best to be the best. I am the best. No one in the NWA has any guts—especially Luger.

**Q:** You must realize it was a different Luger that beat you for the U.S. title four years ago. After all, he was a member of the Horsemen then. Today, Luger is committed to wiping out that same organization. Can't you see that?

**A:** I don't believe it for a minute. Once a man is bad, he stays bad for a lifetime. Luger would rejoin the Horsemen tomorrow if he believed it would be to his benefit. That is the way all Americans think. People will do anything if it results in enough money, and I've been blind not to see it. Maybe I should be going after all the money, all the glamor, all the prestige. I think maybe I would like to join these Four Horsemen.

**Q:** I think maybe you should calm down a bit. Even in your worst rulebreaking days, I could never picture you as a member of the Horsemen!

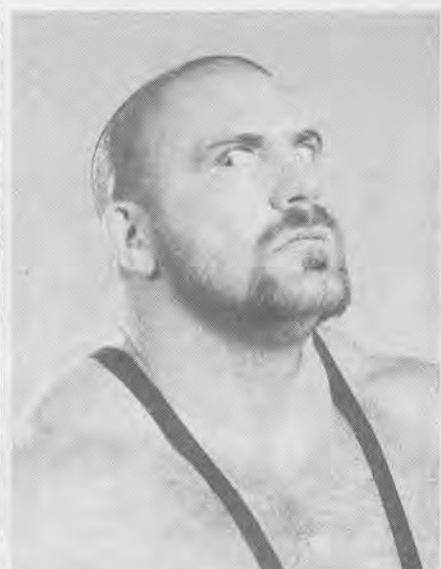
**A:** You had better get used to seeing me doing things I have never done before. I now admire people who have gone on to accomplish great things. Look at Ric Flair, for ex-

In 1987, Koloff and Lex Luger feuded over the U.S. title (above), a championship Nikita is hungry to win back. Nikita no longer trusts Dusty Rhodes, his former partner in the Superpowers (below).



ample. I have had many great battles with him in the past, so I learned to respect him. But now that he has won the NWA World title for the seventh time, I have learned to admire him. That is the kind of success that I want. No more sitting on the sidelines waiting for good things to happen. From now on, when Nikita Koloff wants something, he's going to reach out and take it. And the first thing I'm going to take will be Luger's U.S. title.

**Q:** Since Luger is so angry at you, I'm



“

From now on, when Nikita Koloff wants something, he's going to reach out and take it.

”

sure you will soon receive an opportunity to do just that. What other plans do you have now that you're back wrestling full-time?

**A:** Well, one thing I would like to do is apologize to my Uncle Ivan. I have said many bad things about him during the past two years, and I have fought him in the UWF—although my heart was not really in it. Next, I want to put to rest the myth that I have lost my power. I am stronger than Luger, stronger than Sid Vicious, even stronger than that big fool El Gigante. I will prove this to everyone soon. To do that, I need to crush some bodies. Break some bones. Make everybody aware that Nikita Koloff is back.

**Q:** What about the rules?

**A:** To hell with the rules. To hell with the fans. And to hell with you. Nikita has better things to do than to talk to fat Americans. Go home. □

# ARN ANDERSON: HEARTBEAT OF THE HORSEMEN

**The Four Horsemen are comprised of some of the finest wrestlers in the world, but somebody has to keep them together. That job belongs to Arn Anderson, the man who makes the Horsemen run**

By Dave Rosenbaum

THE MEETING WAS called to order, and the first order of business was about to be discussed. Arn Anderson, speaking first, went over the agenda and asked the other members of The Four Horsemen if they had anything to add.

As the meeting progressed, there were discussions, arguments, and almost a few fights. Tempers were thin and voices were raised.

But through it all, Arn Anderson maintained order. He organized the meeting, chaired it, and kept it going in a somewhat businesslike manner. When it was all over, Anderson dismissed the rest of the Horsemen and closed his books on another meeting of wrestling's most powerful clique.

That's the way Lex Luger remembered it, back in the days when he was a member of The Four Horsemen and was required to attend the group's weekly strategy meetings.

"The thing was, Arn was always in charge," Luger recalled. "He was the glue that kept us together, and I really don't think anything's changed. Arn has a great mind for organization. He's a natural leader. He might not be the most talented member of the Horsemen, but in many ways he's definitely their leader."

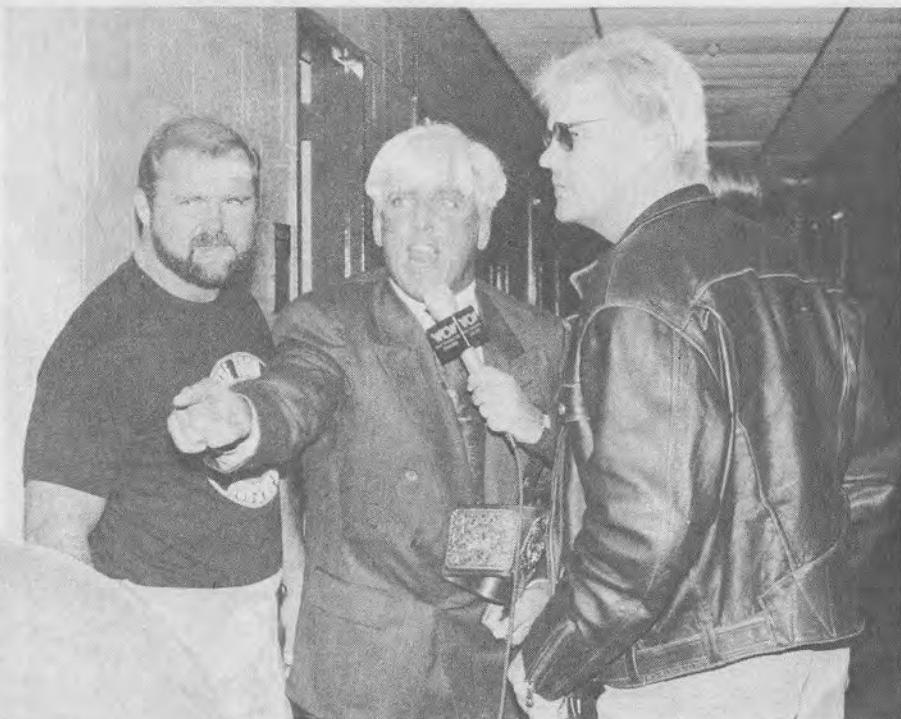
Ric Flair, the seven-time NWA World champion, is the most successful of the Horsemen. He has a flamboyant personality and a flair for the sensational.

Sid Vicious is the youngest Horseman and the one with the most potential. He'll win a world title one day, but he probably won't win it as a member of the Horsemen. Rumors are constantly circulating that Vicious wants out, and he should probably get out.

Barry Windham has settled into a successful career, but he's still the young lion, out to win as many titles as possible. He has charted an unsteady career course, and is



Whenever Ric Flair issues a challenge, Anderson is there to back him up (far right, top). Arn has long been known as one of the most reliable tag team partners in the sport; just ask Tully Blanchard (far right, bottom).



probably best served as a member of the Horsemen.

Arn Anderson, however, is Mr. Steady. He's the rock of the Horsemen. They call him "The Enforcer," but he's also The Organizer, The Leader, The Man In Charge.

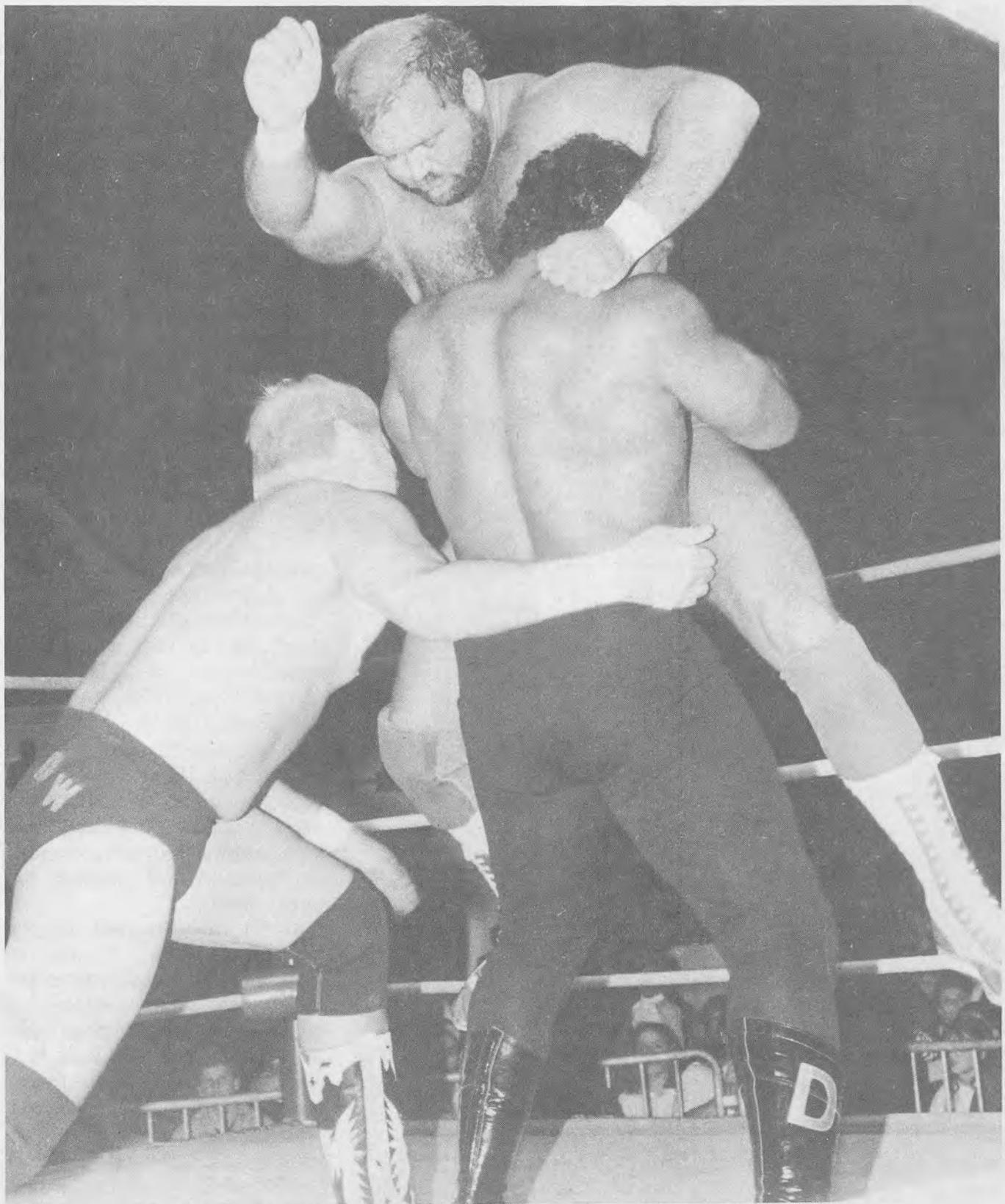
The Horsemen no longer have a manager. J.J. Dillon and Ole Anderson are gone. Thus, Arn serves as a manager, organizing the group's travel schedule, negotiating contracts, and keeping the group together.

He is the heartbeat of the Horsemen.

"I don't think anybody really knows what Arn means to this group," Flair said. "Without him, we're not as strong. Without him, we might just fall apart. He keeps us on a steady course. Whenever anybody needs advice, Arn's the person to go to. He must put in 20 hours a day working on keeping the Horsemen strong. He's as solid as they come."

There have been times when Vicious was tempted to leave the Horsemen. Certainly, he has received numerous offers from rival managers, cliques, and federations. He has stayed with the Horsemen, however, because An-





When Anderson and Barry Windham feuded with Doom, it was Arn—and not Flair—who formulated most of the Horsemen's strategy in those bouts.

derson has convinced him to stay.

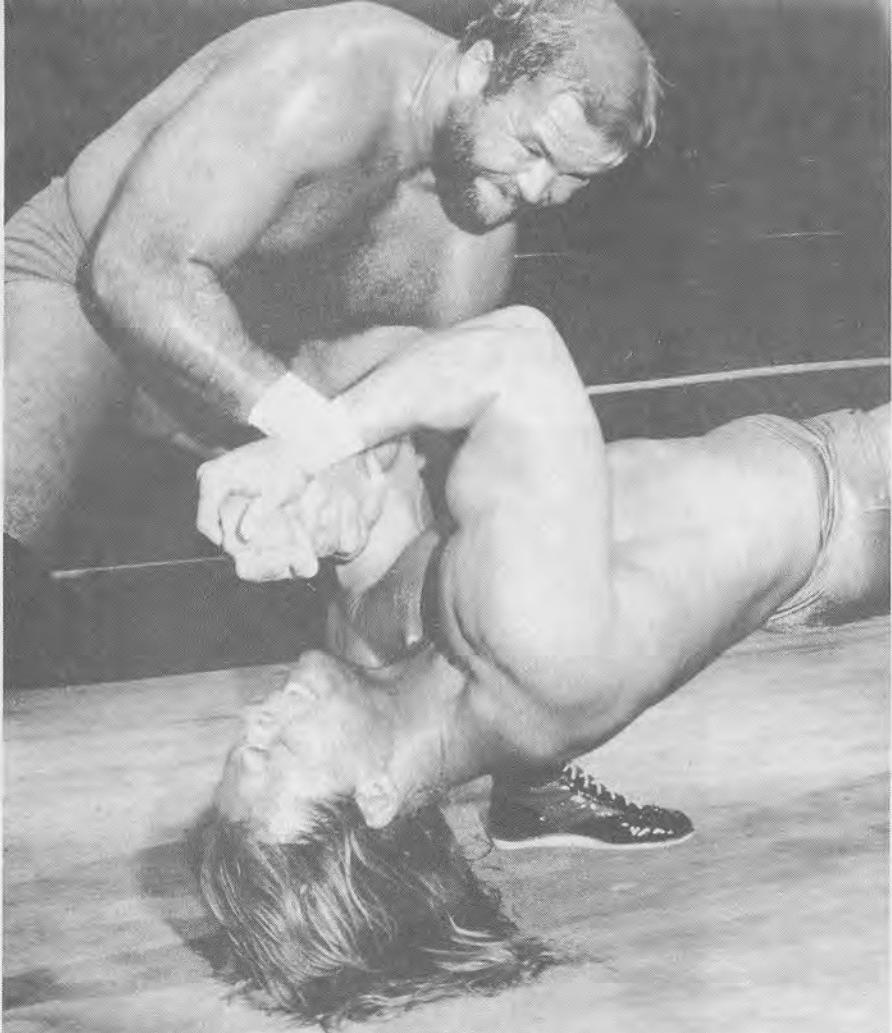
"There really is no other reason," said NWA expert Donald Wayne. "Arn constantly talks Sid out of leaving. You see, Arn has a very logical mind and he's a very

good convincer. He's made Sid believe in him, despite all that has happened."

Even Arn has gone through periods of instability. Several years ago, he and Tully Blanchard left

the NWA for the WWF. But it's a sign of Arn's loyalty to the Horsemen that he returned to the NWA—and the Horsemen—and Tully didn't.

"I don't know why Tully did



When Lex Luger quit the Horsemen in 1987, Anderson was infuriated (above). Arn is NWA TV champion, but he often seems to care more about Flair's success (below) than his own.



what he did," Anderson said in a voice that approaches a growl. "I don't really care. All I know is that being a Horseman is in my blood, it's a part of me, and I had to go back. This group has to stay together and I'm going to do my best to make sure it does."

Flair remembers the time when they *weren't* together. Less than two years ago, Flair was the only member of the Horsemen still in the NWA.

"It was strange, and it was especially strange not having Arn around," Flair said. "Listen, I've won all the titles, but Arn's the leader of this group. When he came back, everything fell into place again."

Sting, who was a member of the Horsemen for one month last year, agreed that Anderson is the spiritual, philosophical, and organizational leader of the Horsemen.

"When I was negotiating to come in, everything was done through Arn," Sting said. "He's a sharp negotiator and he knows what he's doing. Believe me, when I joined the Horsemen, Arn was the main reason I did it. Say what you want about his tactics, but you have to respect his knowledge."

His solo ambitions aren't nearly as great as the other members of the Horsemen. He's NWA TV champion, but cares little about that honor. His status as Horseman is far more important. To Arn, the Horsemen are everything.

"There's something very special about being a member of this group that not everybody understands," Arn said. "Lex Luger didn't understand. Sting certainly didn't. Sometimes I feel that I'm the only one who really has the interests of the group at heart. But that's okay. Everybody has selfish reasons for doing what they do, and that includes me."

"I love being a Horseman, and I want it to last forever." □

**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

FATHER-SON DISPUTES are nothing new in wrestling. Greg Valentine often violently disagreed with his father, Johnny. Blackjack Mulligan and his son, Barry Windham, have frequently taken sides against each other.

But nothing has approached the intensity of hatred currently being displayed in USWA rings by veteran Bill Dundee and his 19-year-old son, Jamie. At times, it is difficult to believe these two men are related.

This tragic family feud began on February 9 in Memphis, Tennessee after a match between Steve Austin and Danny Davis that Jamie refereed. Several times during the encounter, Jamie was seen conversing with Jeannie Clark instead of concentrating on the match. Afterward USWA matchmaker Eddie Marlin came to the ring, accused Jamie of being biased toward Austin, and fired him. As Jamie and Marlin argued, the elder Dundee appeared and told his son to quit rather than take being fired. When Jamie refused to heed his father's request, Bill took Marlin's belt, put Jamie over his knee, and started whipping him!

Since then, Jamie has become a manager (he now calls himself J.C. Ice Baby), and he hasn't missed an opportunity to interfere in his father's matches, most significantly helping Eric Embry beat Bill for the USWA Texas title.

Even in a federation famous for unusual occurrences, the war between the Dundees has captured a lot of attention. Will father and son ever reconcile their differences, or has their family been irreparably torn apart? We want-

# ONE O



**"Jamie Dundee doesn't even exist anymore. I'm J.C. Ice Baby and I'm the future of the USWA. Your time is past."**

**—Jamie Dundee**

ed some answers, so we asked Bill and Jamie to square off by phone . . . "One On One."

#### **BILL DUNDEE:**

You little punk! I don't even know why I'm talkin' to ya. I oughta come over there and give you a good slap upside the head. Do you know how embarrassing it is to have your teenaged son give you backtalk in public? Disgraceful, that's what it is. And what's all this Ice Baby crap? Why don't you start acting like a man for a change?

#### **JAMIE DUNDEE:**

Don't talk to me about acting

like a man, old man! You're the real disgrace to this family. There was a time I was proud to say to people: "That's my dad, Bill Dundee. He's the greatest wrestler in the whole, wide world." I was the proudest little kid in school. Boy, that seems like a hundred years ago! You're not the same person anymore. You're the reason why Momma left. You tried to boss her around just like you tried to boss me around. That's never gonna happen again!

**BD:** Don't go draggin' your mother into this, you ungrateful little guttersnipe! This thing is between you and me and nobody else. At

# N ONE



*"Someday you'll realize what a mistake you're making. But until that day comes, I see nothing for you but trouble."*

—Bill Dundee

least that's how it should be. You think you're some hotshot manager now, so you try to put me out with that fat sack of lard, Awesome Kong, but you couldn't get the job done. Now you may have cost me the Texas belt, young man, but that's what they call a temporary setback. No punk son of mine is gonna take away my livelihood.

**JD:** You're absolutely right. No son of yours'll do the job; J.C. Ice Baby will do it! I'm the hottest young manager in the sport today, and your head is gonna be the first in my trophy case. But I don't wanna waste too much time on

you, little man, 'cause I've got bigger plans, like taking out your buddy Jerry Lawler. The two of you have been around for too long. It's time for some new blood.

**BD:** The only new blood, kid, will be the blood of your men after me and Jerry get through with them. This Memphis area has been through a whole lot of changes, but look in the ratings every month and you still see Lawler and me right near the top. There's no replacement for veteran experience. You better remember that if you wanna be any kind of a manager.

**JD:** Yeah, right, like the Ice Baby is gonna take any advice from *you*. It's true, old man, that you've lasted for a pretty long time, but there's two reasons for that. The first is that you're always avoiding the big matches. You're a chicken! You won't stand and fight when it really counts. And second, you've never had anybody like me after your hide. For 10 years I've watched you in that ring. I know exactly how to beat you. It won't be long before you're looking for that next plane back to Australia. Or maybe you won't be able to afford a plane. Maybe you'll have to swim back!

**BD:** So you're a comedian now, eh? That's good. That's good. You're gonna need to yuck it up when you're lying in some hospital bed with a broken neck. And it'll serve you right, you skinny little runt. You've got no place in this business. At one time I thought you did. It was my dream for a Dundee to win the world championship. I was gonna help you avoid all the mistakes I made. But somewhere along the line you went bad, and you nearly broke my heart. I . . .

**JD:** Oh, boo hoo, I nearly broke his heart.

**BD:** Now you let me finish! I wasn't the perfect father, I'll grant you that, but I don't deserve this. It's gotten where the sight of you prancing around like some monkey makes me sick to the pit of my stomach. I'm startin' to believe there's no way you coulda come out of my loins.

**JD:** Finished with your sob story? Good, 'cause you can't make up for the past, and that's something you have to live with. I'm talkin' about the present, and the future. Jamie Dundee doesn't even exist anymore; I'm J.C. Ice Baby and I'm the future of the USWA. Your time is past. You may as well retire right now and save yourself a lot of pain and agony.

**BD:** I pity you almost as much as I despise you. You talk about a future; you had such a bright future and you threw it all away for a few dollars. Someday you'll have enough wisdom to realize what a mistake you're making. But until that day comes, I see nothing for you but trouble.

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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)



If Jim Cornette were smart, says reader David Sampson, he would get The Midnight Express back together again in a hurry.

### DOC 'N' GORDY

I have to agree with Eddie Ellner that "Dr. Death" Steve Williams and Terry Gordy are an awesome tag team combination ("The Insider," April 1991). Now, I don't enjoy agreeing

tion, but it doesn't look right for him to be wrestling solo. He needs a partner at his side again, and that partner has to be Lane.

So, Cornette, get smart—and get the Midnights back together again!

DAVID SAMPSON  
Albany, NY

### CHANGE AT THE TOP

I would like to congratulate Craig Peters for his ascension to the editor-in-chief spot. It is well-deserved. I have been a reader of your magazines since 1979, so I remember when Craig started off as a lowly assistant editor in 1981. Over the past 10 years, it has been easy to see how he earned his way to the top.

Not surprisingly, "On The Road" is my favorite column, though I miss the old column logo, with all the signposts stuck to it. Well, you can't have everything. The important thing, though, is what he writes, and what he writes is some of the most insightful stuff in the business.

HOWARD KEMP  
Easton, PA



Reader Eric Faulk reluctantly agrees with Eddie Ellner that Terry Gordy and Steve Williams are the finest tag duo in the sport.

with Ellner, but there it is. I only wish that Williams and Gordy would make their teaming permanent in the States rather than spending so much time in Japan.

"Doc" competes in the UWF, so why doesn't he bring Gordy with him? They'd easily dominate that league. Who would their competition be: The

(Continued on page 54)

# THIS MONTH IN...

# The Wrestler



How much longer can we depend on  
**HULK HOGAN?**



**RIC FLAIR'S** mission: Chop down **EL GIGANTE**—before he's too big to handle!

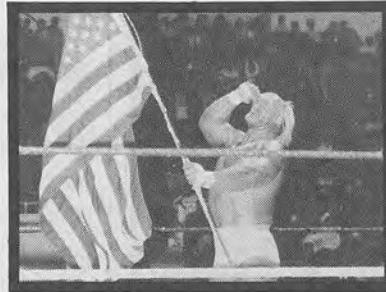
## PLUS . . .

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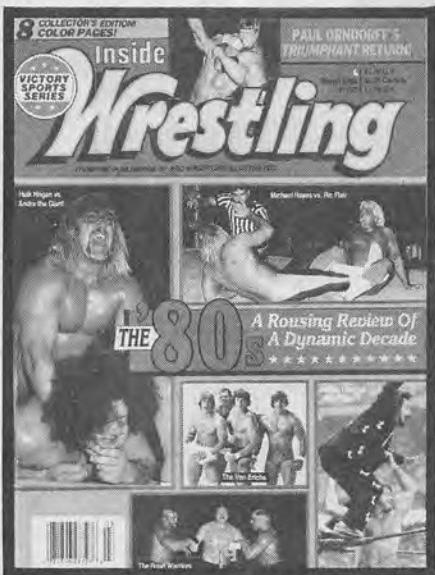
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

Power Twins? Sure, the Twins are big, but they don't come close to having the kind of experience necessary to beat Gordy and Williams.

ERIC FAULK  
Cherry Hill, NJ

### MAYOR JESSE

Sometimes I can't believe that Jesse "The Body" Ventura, a man I have watched for years as a wrestler and a commentator, is actually an honest-to-goodness mayor!

I think it's great. Jesse has taught us an important lesson, which is not to



Mayor Jesse Ventura of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, is an inspiration to reader Pamela Naelon, who applauds Ventura for getting involved in the affairs of his community.

leave politics to the politicians. Everyone should get involved. Today's issues are too important for us to not care. Jesse didn't like the way things were going in his community, so he got involved.

Hopefully, Jesse won't treat his opponents in the city council like his opponents in the ring!

PAMELA NAELO  
Miami

### MISSED ONE

I would like to know why the feud between Terry Taylor and Nikita Koloff was left out of the "Capsule Profile" on Taylor in the March 1991 is-



Nikita Koloff and Terry Taylor's match to unify the NWA and UWF television titles was overlooked in our March 1991 "Capsule Profile" on Taylor.

sue. The feud resulted in the unification of the NWA and UWF television titles. To me, and probably a lot of other fans, this is an important part of wrestling history that shouldn't be forgotten.

CHRIS COOPER  
Ferrum, VA

### THE WRONG REASONS

I must take issue with reader Tim Edwardson's letter about Missy Hyatt ("Annoyed With Us") in the April 1991 issue. Mr. Edwardson dismisses Hyatt's lack of ability as an announcer, saying, in effect, that he doesn't care if she's a good analyst or not, as long as she stands there looking pretty.

That isn't the point, Mr. Edwardson. If beauty were the only criterion for appearing on NWA broadcasts, the play-by-play would be done by *Playboy* centerfold models. Announcers are chosen because of their knowledge of the sport and their speaking voices. Look, Jim Ross and Gordon Solie aren't about to pose for *GQ*; they are where they are because they're good *announcers*, not pretty boys.

JANE BALDWIN  
San Diego □

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**August 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

**November 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

**December 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

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**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**November 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

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**February 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

**April 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

**May 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

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**November 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

**January 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

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**May 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

**June 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

**July 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvin, Sting.

**August 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

**October 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**November 1987/COLOR PINUP:** George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

**January 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvin, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

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**May 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

**June 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

**July 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

**August 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

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**July 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper, Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

**August 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger, Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

**October 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Rude, Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

**November 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair, Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

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**January 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Sid Vicious, Ultimate, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

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**May 1990/COLOR PINUP:** The Great Muta, Hulk Hogan, Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

**June 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Sting, Hogan vs. Warrior, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Am vs. Sawyer.

**July 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referrees.

**September 1990/PINUP:** Rick & Scott Steiner. COLOR FEATURES: Sting, Hogan, Horsemen, Hennig.

**October 1990/PINUP:** Brutus Beefcake. COLOR FEATURES: Tugboat, Ultimate, Sting, Long, Blanchard-Orndorf.

**November 1990/PINUP:** Legion of Doom. COLOR FEATURES: Rude-Warrior, Sting beats Flair.

**December 1990/PINUP:** Sting. COLOR FEATURES: Doom, Horsemen, Legion of Doom, Kerry, Slaughter.

**January 1991/PINUP:** Kerry Von Erich. COLOR FEATURES: WWF vs. NWA, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri.

**February 1991/PINUP:** 1991 calendar. COLOR FEATURES: Scott Steiner, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase.

**April 1991/PINUP:** Tom Zenk. COLOR FEATURES: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.

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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



Ricky Santana (top) was disguised as The Hood when he and Brad Anderson (above) captured the PNW tag team title. That's how Santana got around a suspension. But even after he was unmasked, PNW officials refused to strip them of the belts.

seemed a little strange that Santana left at the same time The Hood arrived, that The Hood and Santana had identical builds, that their voices were exactly the same. Not close, the same.

PNW officials, however, didn't seem to notice. Either that, or they didn't want to notice, were too scared to notice, were happy that Santana, in the public view, was gone, and that even if he was The Hood, nobody knew it. Or could prove it.

What a joke! Everybody knew it! And when The Grappler unmasked The Hood and revealed him to be Santana, nobody was surprised. That wasn't a collective gasp of shock you heard from the crowd in the Portland Sports Arena, it was a collective yawn. A yawn and a moan.

And the moan was especially loud because, minutes earlier, The Hood and Brad Anderson combined to beat Steve Doll and Steve Sawyer in a best-of-three-falls match for the held-up PNW tag team title.

Now, when The Hood was revealed, the PNW should have stripped Santana and Anderson of the tag belts. But it didn't. As of this writing, Santana and Anderson are still PNW tag team champions.

"It's ridiculous," Doll said. "Everybody knew that Hood was Santana, but the only way to prove it was by getting that stupid mask off of his face. Then Grappler goes and does the job, and the PNW turns a deaf ear to the situation. I'm not sure what we had to do. Don't the rules apply here anymore? He lost a loser-leaves-town match. That means he should be out of here. It doesn't mean he can leave, return as The Hood, get unmasked, and come back as Santana. It

means he's gone. Permanently!"

Not quite. But this is more than a case of one wrestler not following the rules and a federation not enforcing them. It's a matter of honor.

"Believe me, nobody in his right mind would ever wrestle Santana in another loser-leaves-town match," The Grappler said. "It's exactly like when a person waches on a bet; you just don't bet him anymore. Santana never had much integrity in the first place, and now he has absolutely none. Since the PNW won't take care of its own business, the wrestlers will have to do it for them. We'll just have to run Santana out of town on our own."

Unfortunately, that will only make the situation even messier. Gang war is about to break out in the PNW, and the officials of this fine federation are to blame.

In pro hockey, fights often break out because the referee fails to maintain control of the game, because he fails to call obvious penalties. We have the same situation going on right now in the PNW. It's happened in other federations. It will happen here.

Of course, such a battleground will sell more tickets and fill PNW arenas. The officials, by ignoring their duty, will actually benefit at the cash register.

This is really quite a big mess, and it's something we've seen before: Dirty Yellow Dog (Barry Windham), The Midnight Rider (Dusty Rhodes), and Charlie Brown (Jimmy Valiant) were all examples of wrestlers skirting the rulebook as a way to continue competing. History has repeated itself in the worst way in the PNW.

And what does Santana, the instigator, have to say for himself?

"I'm back and I've got a championship belt," Santana said. "And there's nothing anybody can do about it."

Sadly, Santana is right. □

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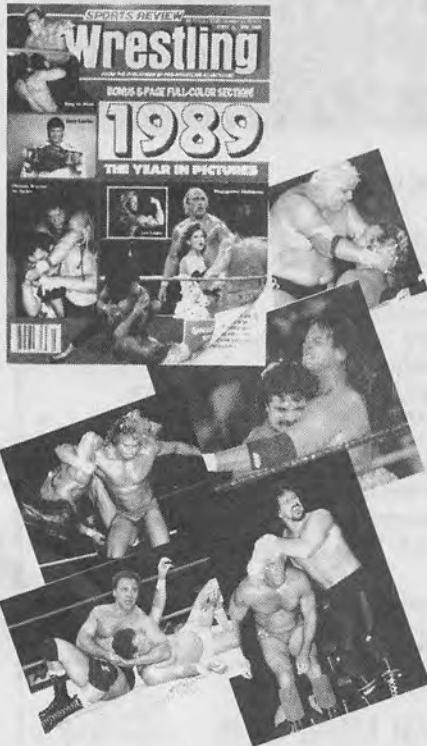
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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

last thing this sport needs is another generation of Rhodes strutting, preening, and generally embarrassing itself and the sport.

As for papa Dusty, do you *really* think he'll be able to resist the urge to go after a fourth NWA World title, especially with his longtime nemesis, Ric Flair, holding the belt?

A Flair-Rhodes series of bouts. Great for 1985, but 1991?

Breccccch!

\*\*\*

I'm going to take this opportunity to be the first writer working for this family of magazines to make the following (conditional) predic-

tion (and the condition comes later):

The Undertaker is going to be the surprise success of 1991 in the WWF.

Which is not to say that he's going to capture the WWF World title this year, though he's in awfully good position to do so. That Hulk Hogan will dethrone Sgt. Slaughter at WrestleMania VII (four weeks away as I write this; four weeks in the past as you read this) is virtually a given. An Undertaker-Hogan series, there-

Ellner predicts The Undertaker will be the surprise of 1991 in the WWF, as long as Paul Bearer doesn't screw up his career.



fore, becomes a distinct possibility in light of the paucity of competition available to Hogan, the champion.

After all, who else is Hogan going to wrestle? Slaughter in rematches? Forget it. Earthquake? Even WWF matchmakers must have had enough of *that* dog of a bout. Ultimate Warrior? Only if Warrior goes over the edge and turns full-fledged rulebreaker (which is hardly a big stretch, considering how he's been beating up Sensational Sherri all around the country).

Which leaves a WWF roster of competitors either too small (and hence not competitive enough) or too fan favorite (and hence not attractive enough to matchmakers) for Hogan to handle.

Which leaves Undertaker.

And the condition.

The wild card in the equation, of course, is Paul Bearer (I'm biting my tongue on *that* one, readers), who, under his previous *nom de plume* of Percy Pringle, fairly screwed up the career of Rick Rude before the "Ravishing One" escaped his mealy clutches and found success in the WWF.

Pringle—er, Bearer—is a master at messing up, sort of America's version of Mr. Fuji.

Speaking of Fuji, can you believe how badly he screwed up The Orient Express? Is there a fan or analyst of the sport anywhere who didn't tab the Express as WWF World tag team champions upon their debut in the federation? Is there a lover of the sport anywhere who didn't virtually salivate at the prospect of Orient Express-Hart Foundation contests, high-flying affairs that could have been as thrilling as a Rick Steamboat-Ric Flair match?

Fuji and Pringle are two of a kind. And like I said, Undertaker could be the surprise success of 1991—if only Pringle—er, Bearer—will butt out and let him. □

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Tully Blanchard vs. Manny Fernandez  
Rick Rude vs. Jerry Lawler  
The Crusher, Dick the Bruiser & Little Bruiser vs. Blackjack Mulligan,  
Bobby Heenan & Blackjack Lanza

#### VOL. 3 □

Tommy Rich & Eddie Gilbert vs.  
Phil Hickerson & The Spoiler  
Rock "n" Roll Express vs.  
Randy Savage & Lanny Poffo  
Dick Slater vs. Dory Funk Jr.  
The Sheik vs. Tiger Jeet Singh (Cage)  
The Fabulous Blonds vs.  
Al Perez & Manny Fernandez  
Terry Funk vs. Harley Race  
Pepper Gomez vs. The Bounty Hunter

#### VOL. 4 □

Austin Idol vs. Jim Neidhart  
Junkyard Dog vs. Butch Reed  
Rick Rude, Jim Neidhart, Ox Baker &  
The Japanese Assassin vs. Robert Reed,  
Tiger Mask, Keith Eric & Mad Dog  
King Kong Bundy vs. Jerry Lawler  
Terry Funk vs. Mark Lewin  
Tommy Rich vs. Massai Ito  
Jerry Lawler vs. Kamala  
Ray Stevens, Blackjack Mulligan & Baron  
Von Raschke vs. The Crusher, Dick the Bruiser  
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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

pounds less, and Demolition weighs in at 592. The Legion of Doom and Demolition, however, are comprised of well-tuned, well-primed physical specimens.

The Pretty Young Things are slobs.

Slobs with egos.

"We have the bodies of the '90s," James said. "This is what all men in the year 1995 will aspire to look like. We have the women falling at our feet and begging to spend some time with us. Me and Frederick are gonna make the cover of *GQ*."

Shall I vomit now? If James and Frederick have the bodies of the '90s, then the diet of the '90s will consist entirely of hamburgers, french fries, and thick shakes. If women are falling at their feet, it's certainly not from their looks.

One thing I haven't mentioned: The Pretty Young Things don't smell too good, either.

"It's our natural odor," Frederick said. "We've found that women prefer their men *au naturel*. Ain't it sweet?"

Actually, it's sickening. The Pretty Young Things have turned wrestling on its nostrils.

On the other hand, maybe I'm being too straight-laced here. Maybe The Pretty Young Things are just trying to have some fun, show a sense of humor, poke fun at themselves. Maybe they don't really think they have the "bodies of the '90s." Maybe they know women aren't falling at their feet. Maybe they just wish they had women. Maybe they're lonely and begging for attention.

Guess again. As a matter of investigative reporting, I offered to date James and Frederick (first James, then Frederick). I met them for an interview. Then, about a week later, I called them for dates.

Both of them turned me down.

"Too busy, hon," James said, calling me by my least-favorite nickname. "But if you'll leave your name and number, you can take your place at the bottom of the list and wait your turn."

Frederick, it seems, really was busy. "Excuse me, Liz, but I have company," Frederick said. "Call back in a few months."

The most frightening part of this whole situation is that The Pretty Young Things have been winning the majority of their matches. Although they certainly can't be called future title contenders, they're not embarrassing themselves.

As I said in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*, it's further proof that you don't have to be built like The Ultimate Warrior (or Hulk Hogan, or even Ric Flair) to be a success.

On the other hand, very few wrestlers of the roly-poly variety have made it to the top of the sport. There's never been a roly-poly WWF or NWA World champion. Otto Wanz, a former AWA champion, wasn't exactly in great shape, but he wasn't obese, either.

My guess—and maybe this is just wishful thinking—is that The Pretty Young Things will stick around for a while, have their fun, then get run out of the sport.

If they can run. Right now, it's their opponents that are running away . . . from the stench!

\*\*\*

Madusa Miceli is back after another one of the shortest retirements in wrestling history.

Madusa, who just months ago said she was retiring from the sport and living the good life in Japan, is back. And, believe it or not, Madusa has sacrificed her former glamor-girl status for a new



"Pretty Young Thing" Frederick and his partner stink—literally—but they're winning the majority of their matches.

no-nonsense look.

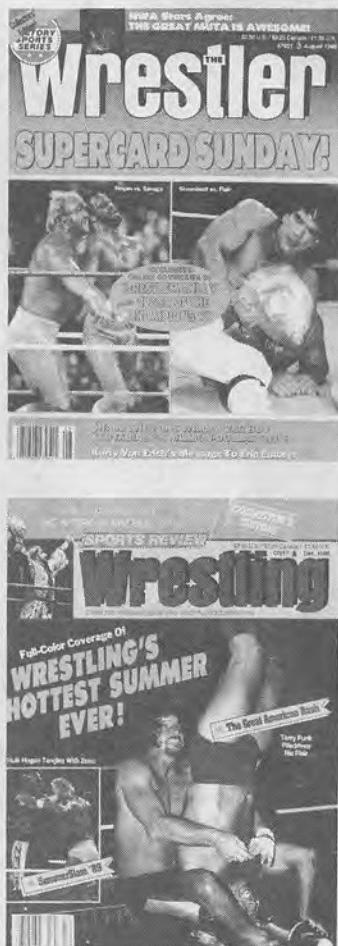
Instead of tight ringwear, she's wearing karate fatigues into the ring.

"It might be better to look good than to feel good, but in this sport it's the results that count," Madusa said. "I want people to know that I mean business. But more importantly, I wanted to give myself the proper attitude. How you dress has a lot to do with how you feel. I like feeling sexy, but in the ring it's more important that I feel tough."

What's especially important, however, is that Madusa is back in the ring. Her retirement left women's wrestling with a tremendous void. It's great that Madusa filled the void all by herself. □

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## STEVE WILLIAMS

(Continued from page 28)



Williams regards this lumberjack match against Paul Ondorff as an exception to his rule that bouts with Japanese wrestlers are more competitive.

he ever won? Where are his world titles?

Williams had an answer for Flair: "If he wants to take me on, fine. Anytime, anywhere, it doesn't matter. I'm ready for him or any other champion. Give me the chance and I'll get the job done."

"But this isn't about titles," Williams added. "This is about *wrestling*, about a sport that takes a certain amount of guts. It's not about running away from your opponent. It's about working hard, developing character, and fighting to the best of your abilities at all times. To me, Japanese wrestlers do that a lot

more than American wrestlers."

Williams pointed out that Japanese corporations are taking over American businesses. He is concerned about the American work ethic. He hopes the current events in the Persian Gulf will encourage more Americans to change their ways.

"The people fighting in that war are the brave ones," Williams said. "I'm proud of them. We should all take their example and make this entire country strong, not just a part of it. We're better than Japan. We whipped their butts in WWII. But they're catching up, and I'm concerned." □

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- 1—RIC FLAIR  
(1) NWA World champion
- 2—LEX LUGER  
(2) U.S. champion
- 3—SGT. SLAUGHTER  
(9) WWF World champion

- 4—HULK HOGAN  
(7) No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 5—STING  
(5) No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 6—CURT HENNIG  
(3) WWF I-C champion
- 7—RODDY PIPER  
(8) No. 1 contender: I-C title

- 8—JEFF JARRETT  
(13) USWA Southern champion
- 9—ULTIMATE WARRIOR  
(6) No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 10—STEVE DOLL  
(11) PNW champion
- 11—EL GIGANTE  
(-) No. 3 contender: NWA title

- 12—SID VICIOUS  
(10) No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 13—PAUL ORNDORFF  
(-) Ranked No. 1 in UWF
- 14—VIC STEAMBOAT  
(-) ICW champion
- 15—TERRY FUNK  
(12) USWA champion

## NWA

- 1—RIC FLAIR  
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—LEX LUGER  
(2) 268, Chicago, IL
- 3—STING  
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA

- 4—EL GIGANTE  
(7) 435, Argentina
- 5—SID VICIOUS  
(4) 318, West Memphis, AR
- 6—TERRY TAYLOR  
(8) 225, Vero Beach, FL
- 7—DAN SPIVEY  
(-) 300, Tampa, FL

- 8—ARN ANDERSON  
(5) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—STAN HANSEN  
(13) 322, Borger, TX
- 10—BOBBY EATON  
(11) 233, Huntsville, AL
- 11—TOM ZENK  
(6) 237, Minneapolis, MN

- 12—LARRY ZBYSZKO  
(-) 248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 13—BRIAN PILLMAN  
(10) 226, Cincinnati, OH
- 14—DUSTIN RHODES  
(-) 254, Austin, TX
- 15—RANGER ROSS  
(-) 225, Acworth, GA

## WWF

- 1—SGT. SLAUGHTER  
(1) 310, Parris Island, SC
- 2—CURT HENNIG  
(2) 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—HULK HOGAN  
(5) 302, Venice Beach, CA

- 4—RODDY PIPER  
(6) 231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 5—ULTIMATE WARRIOR  
(4) 280, Queens, NY
- 6—THE UNDERTAKER  
(9) 320, Dallas, TX
- 7—KERRY VON ERICH  
(13) 260, Denton, TX

- 8—JAKE ROBERTS  
(8) 246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—BIG BOSSMAN  
(10) 358, Cobb County, GA
- 10—DAVEY BOY SMITH  
(12) 245, Leeds, England
- 11—HACKSAW DUGGAN  
(7) 280, Glens Falls, NY

- 12—EARTHQUAKE  
(11) 462, Montreal, Quebec
- 13—GREG VALENTINE  
(14) 243, Seattle, WA
- 14—JACQUES ROUGEAU  
(-) 232, Montreal, Quebec
- 15—JIMMY SNUKA  
(-) 250, Fiji Islands

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—HULK HOGAN  
*Last month: No. 1 Most Popular*
- 2—STING  
*Last month: No. 3 Most Popular*
- 3—LEX LUGER  
*Last month: No. 2 Most Popular*

- 4—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR  
*Last month: No. 4 Most Popular*
- 5—RODDY PIPER  
*Last month: No. 6 Most Popular*
- 6—JERRY LAWLER  
*Last month: No. 7 Most Popular*
- 7—SCOTT STEINER  
*Last month: No. 5 Most Popular*

- 8—JAKE ROBERTS  
*Last month: No. 8 Most Popular*
- 9—EL GIGANTE  
*Last month: No. 11 Most Popular*
- 10—RICK STEINER  
*Last month: No. 9 Most Popular*
- 11—HACKSAW DUGGAN  
*Last month: No. 12 Most Popular*

- 12—JEFF JARRETT  
*Last month: No. 13 Most Popular*
- 13—VIRGIL  
*Last month: No. 14 Most Popular*
- 14—PAUL ORNDORFF  
*Last month: No. 15 Most Popular*
- 15—STEVE DOLL  
*Last month: unrated*

## MOST HATED

- 1—SGT. SLAUGHTER  
*Last month: No. 1 Most Hated*
- 2—RIC FLAIR  
*Last month: No. 2 Most Hated*
- 3—SID VICIOUS  
*Last month: No. 4 Most Hated*

- 4—CURT HENNIG  
*Last month: No. 5 Most Hated*
- 5—THE UNDERTAKER  
*Last month: No. 9 Most Hated*
- 6—ARN ANDERSON  
*Last month: No. 7 Most Hated*
- 7—RICK MARTEL  
*Last month: No. 6 Most Hated*

- 8—BARRY WINDHAM  
*Last month: No. 12 Most Hated*
- 9—EARTHQUAKE  
*Last month: No. 8 Most Hated*
- 10—ERIC EMBRY  
*Last month: unrated*
- 11—TERRY TAYLOR  
*Last month: No. 13 Most Hated*

- 12—CACTUS JACK  
*Last month: No. 15 Most Hated*
- 14—TED DiBIASE  
*Last month: No. 11 Most Hated*
- 14—STEVE WILLIAMS  
*Last month: unrated*
- 15—SCOTT NORTON  
*Last month: unrated*

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE HART FOUNDATION  
(1) WWF World tag team champions
- 2—RICK & SCOTT STEINER  
(3) U.S. tag team champions
- 3—THE FREEBIRDS  
(8) NWA World tag team champions
- 4—THE NASTY BOYS  
(15) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 5—THE LEGION OF DOOM  
(4) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title

- 6—JEFF JARRETT & JERRY LAWLER  
(-) USWA tag team champions
- 7—ARN ANDERSON & BARRY WINDHAM  
(5) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title
- 8—POWER & GLORY  
(6) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
- 9—THE YOUNG PISTOLS  
(-) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title
- 10—THE ROCKERS  
(9) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title

- 11—THE EQUALIZERS  
(-) ICW tag team champions
- 12—STEVE SAWYER & MIKE WINNER  
(-) No. 1 contenders: PNW tag title
- 13—THE ORIENT EXPRESS  
(13) No. 5 contenders: WWF tag title
- 14—THE POWER TWINS  
(-) Rated No. 1 in UWF
- 15—THE BUSHWHACKERS  
(-) No. 6 contenders: WWF tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended March 1, 1991

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

## ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JOHNNY ACE & KENTA KOBASHI

(September 8, 1990; tournament final over Bobby Fulton & Tommy Rogers; Fukui, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY

(December 7, 1990; tournament final over Stan Hansen & Dan Spivey; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYODA

(October 7, 1990; for vacant title over Bison Kimura; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO

(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KYOKO INOUYE

(October 2, 1990; for vacant title over Takako Inoue; Yamagata, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Aja Kong & Bison Kimura)

## AWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUCK ZUMHOFER (*INACTIVE*)

(August 12, 1990; tournament final over Jonnie Stewart; Rochester, MN)

## AWA CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT (*INACTIVE*)

(most recently held by Larry Zbyszko)

## AWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TROOPER & D.J. PETERSON (*INACTIVE*)

(August 11, 1990; from The Destruction Crew; Rochester, MN)

## AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE (*INACTIVE*)

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

## CANADIAN NATIONAL WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RON RITCHIE

(December 14, 1990; from Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)

## CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(December 22, 1990; tournament final over Rambo; Bremen, Germany)

## GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: STEVE LAWLER

(December 2, 1990; from Nick Busick; Carrollton, GA)

## IOWA CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT

(July 24, 1990; from Tony Atlas; Middletown, NY)

## IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ

(December 5, 1990; tournament final over Cousin Luke; Washington Township, NJ)

## IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SONNY BEACH & THE TERMINATOR

(August 27, 1990; from The Motor City Madmen; Atlantic City, NJ)

## IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE

(October 5, 1990; from Cactus Jack; Girard, OH)

## IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI

(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

## \* IWCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE EQUALIZERS

(February 23, 1991; from The Madison Brothers; Meriden, CT)

## \* IWCW WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH

(by official's decision)

## IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(January 17, 1991; from Tatsumi Fujinami; Yokohama, Japan)

## IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

### SUPER STRONG MACHINE & HIRO SAITO

(December 26, 1990; from Kensuke Sasaki & Hiroshi Hase; Hamamatsu, Japan)

## IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN RIGER

(November 2, 1990; from The Pegasus Kid; Tokyo, Japan)

## \* LPWA CHAMPION: LADY X

(January 31, 1991; from Susan Sexton; Laughlin, NV)

## LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

### MISTY BLUE SIMMES & HEIDI LEE MORGAN

(March 13, 1990; tournament final over Bad Girl & Black Venus; Laughlin, NV)

## NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(January 11, 1991; from Sting; East Rutherford, NJ)

## \* NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FREEBIRDS

(February 24, 1991; from Doom; Phoenix, AZ)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL

(November 10, 1990; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

## \* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

### TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Ricky Santana & Brad Anderson)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Scotty the Body)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

### STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY

(December 7, 1990; tournament final over Stan Hansen & Dan Spivey; Tokyo, Japan)

## \* PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: CHARLIE NORRIS

(February 7, 1991; from The Terminator; Minneapolis, MN)

## PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

## PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RON SLINKER & SGT. ROCK

(November 22, 1990; from Hurricane Walker & Powerhouse Parker; Tampa, FL)

## PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND

(August 2, 1990; from Lou Perez; Tampa, FL)

## \* SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VINCE TORELLI

(February 7, 1991; tournament final over Chris Chavis; Nassau, Bahamas)

## SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY & JACKIE FULTON

(December 29, 1990; from The Pit Bulldogs; Greenville, SC)

## TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR

(January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)

## \* TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

### SHAWN SIMPSON

(February 10, 1991; by forfeit from Eric Embry; Dallas, TX)

## \* TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: AL PEREZ

(February 21, 1991; from Matt Bone; Dallas, TX)

## TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE

(September 15, 1990; tournament final over Rockin' Rebel; Philadelphia, PA)

## U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(December 16, 1990; from Stan Hansen; St. Louis, MO)

## U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(August 24, 1990; from The Midnight Express; East Rutherford, NJ)

## USWA CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK

(November 8, 1990; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

## \* USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Jeff Jarrett)

## \* USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JERRY LAWLER & JEFF JARRETT

(February 4, 1991; for held-up title over The Fabulous Ones; Memphis, TN)

## \* USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(February 15, 1991; from Bill Dundee; Dallas, TX)

## UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK

(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)

## \* WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.

(February 16, 1991; from Kim Duk; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

## WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

### GALAN MENDOZA & RICK VALENTINE

(January 23, 1991; from The Super Medics; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MR. POGO

(February 9, 1991; from Hurricane Castillo Jr.; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

## WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

## \* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TEXAS HANGMEN

(February 10, 1991; from El Bronco I & Invader I; Hormigueros, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(February 2, 1991; for held-up title over Greg Valentine; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SASHA

(December 15, 1990; from Monster Ripper; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG

(November 19, 1990; from Kerry Von Erich; Rochester, NY)

## WWF WORLD CHAMPION: SGT. SLAUGHTER

(January 19, 1991; from The Ultimate Warrior; Miami, FL)

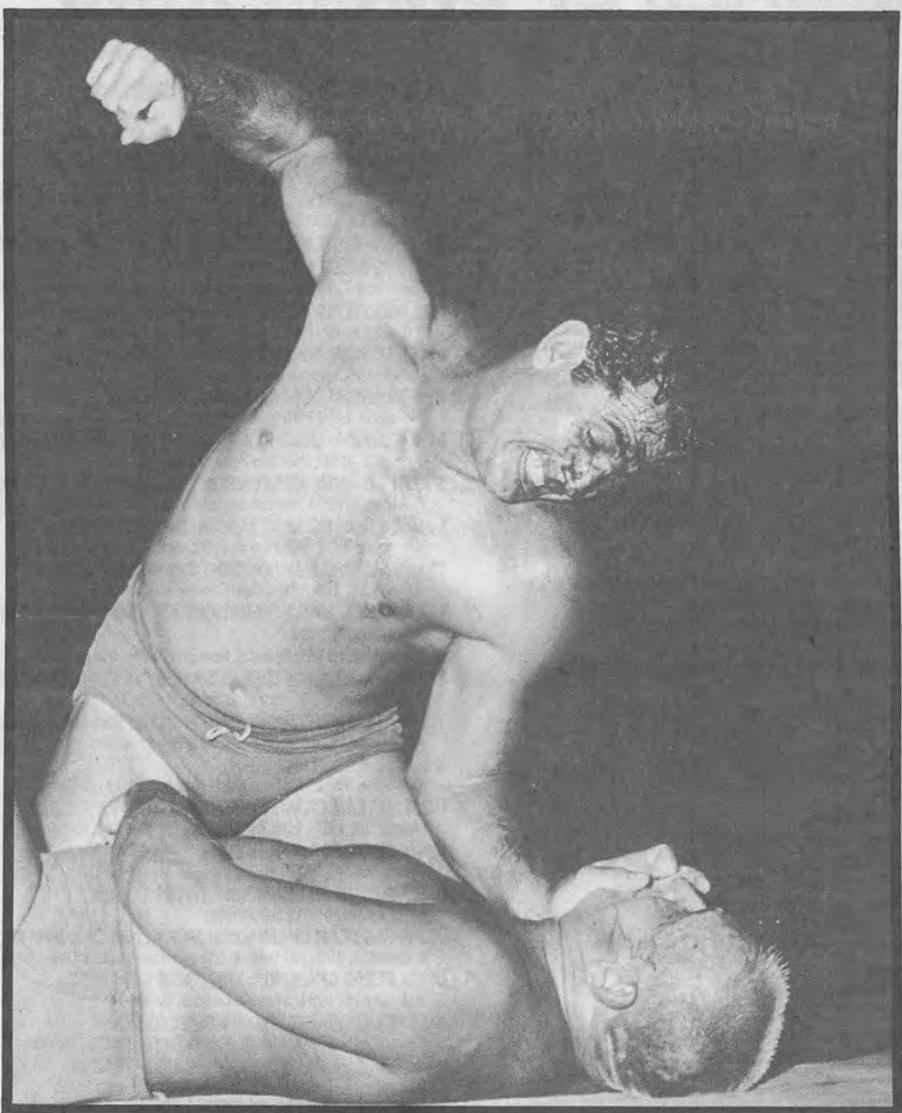
## WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRET HART & JIM NEIDHART

(August 27, 1990; from Demolition; Philadelphia, PA)

# **Blast From The Past**

## **This Month In Wrestling History**

**“THE INFLUENCE LIVES ON”**



**“COWBOY” BOB ELLIS vs. BOB ORTON SR.**  
**April 21, 1964**

Angered beyond reason, bloody Southern champion “Cowboy” Bob Ellis pounds away at Bob Orton Sr. in this violent title match at the Tampa Auditorium. After these legendary competitors split the first two falls, Orton was disqualified in the third fall, allowing Ellis to retain his title. “Of all the guys I wrestled, I never hated anybody more than Bob Ellis,” says Orton today. Ironically, Orton’s own son, Bob Orton Jr., has been known as “Cowboy” Bob Orton throughout his wrestling career.

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